DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#24

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR

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ARTIST

MIKE SPICER
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

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- JEFF SPOKES
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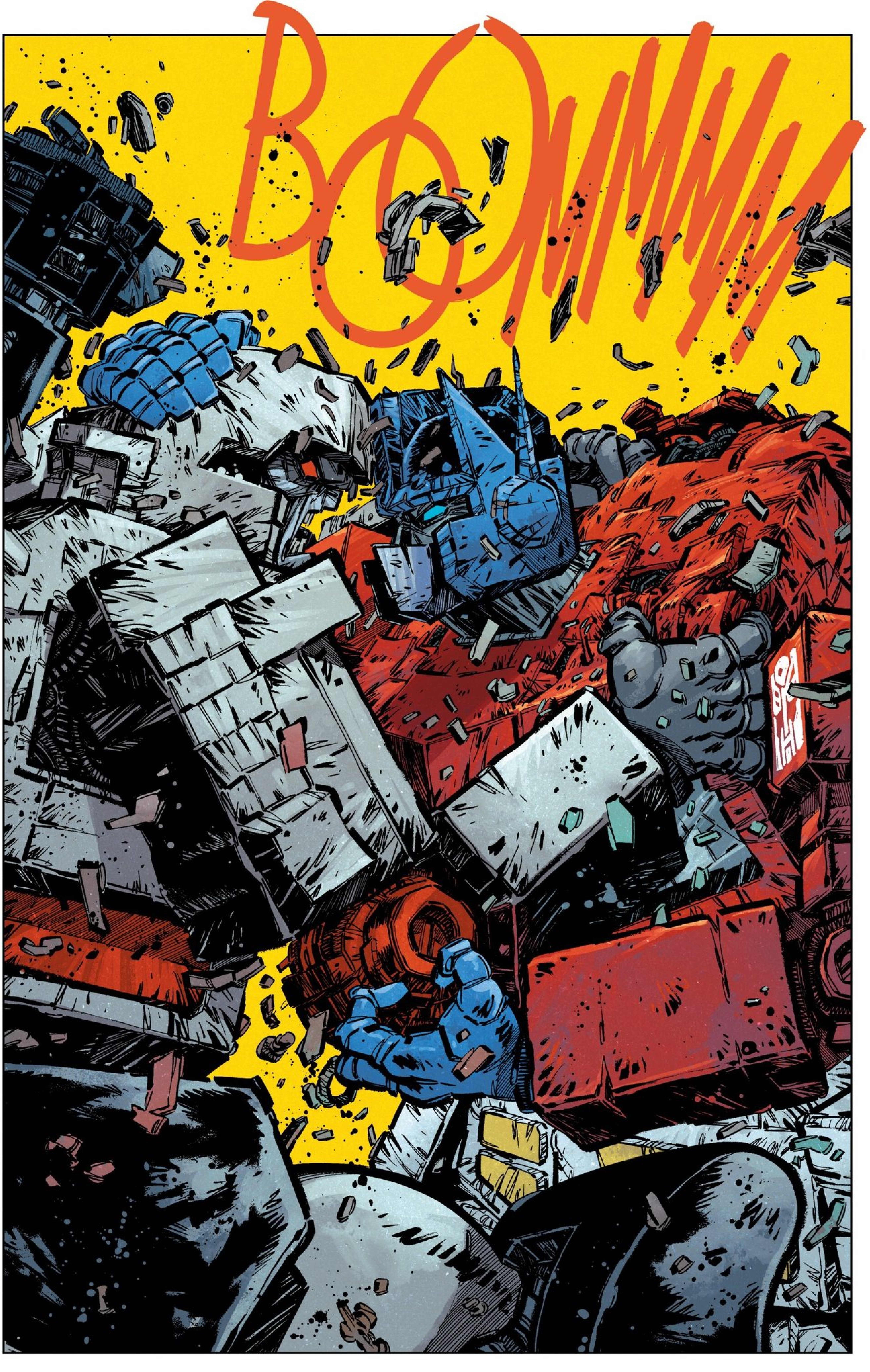
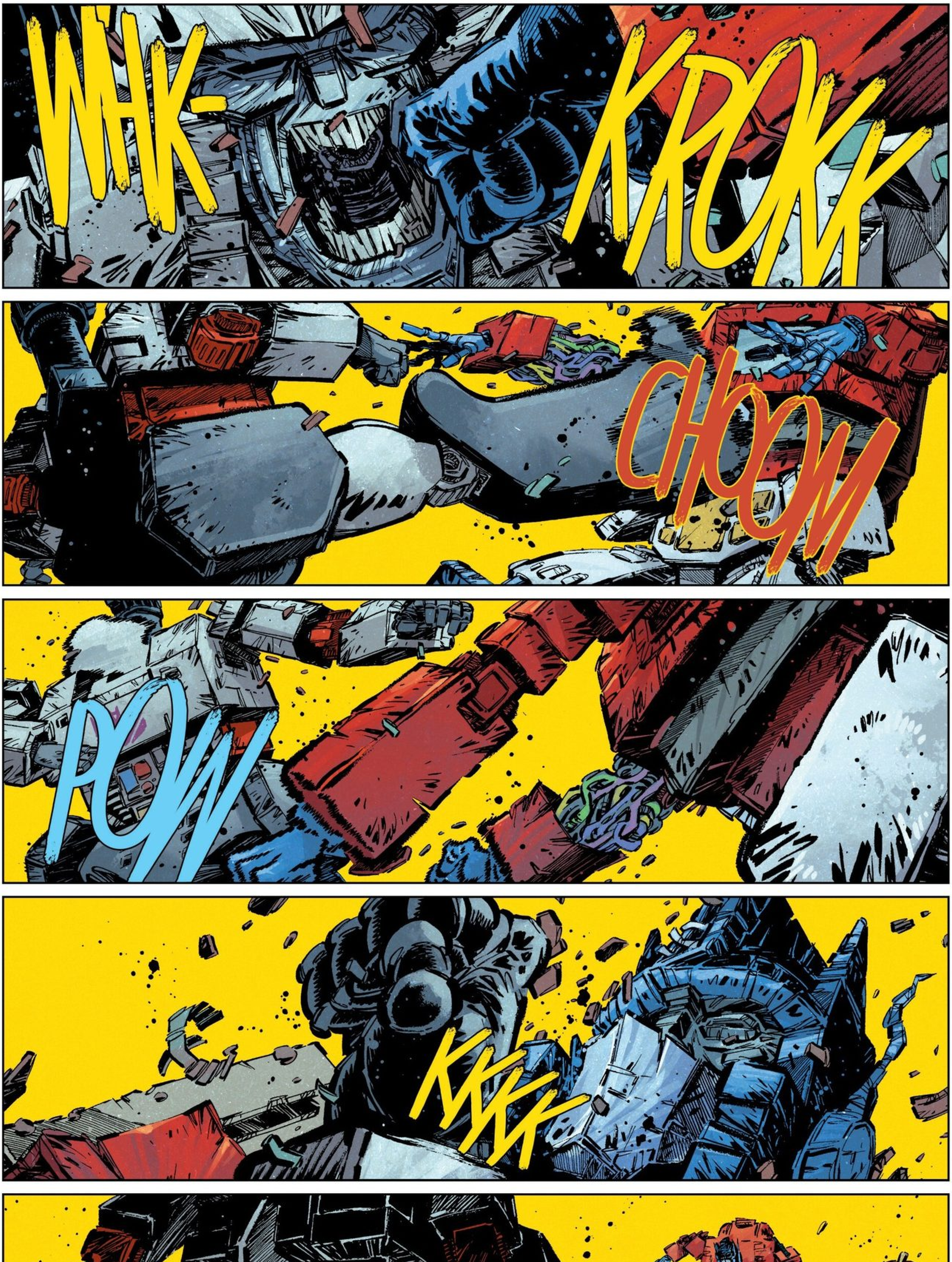
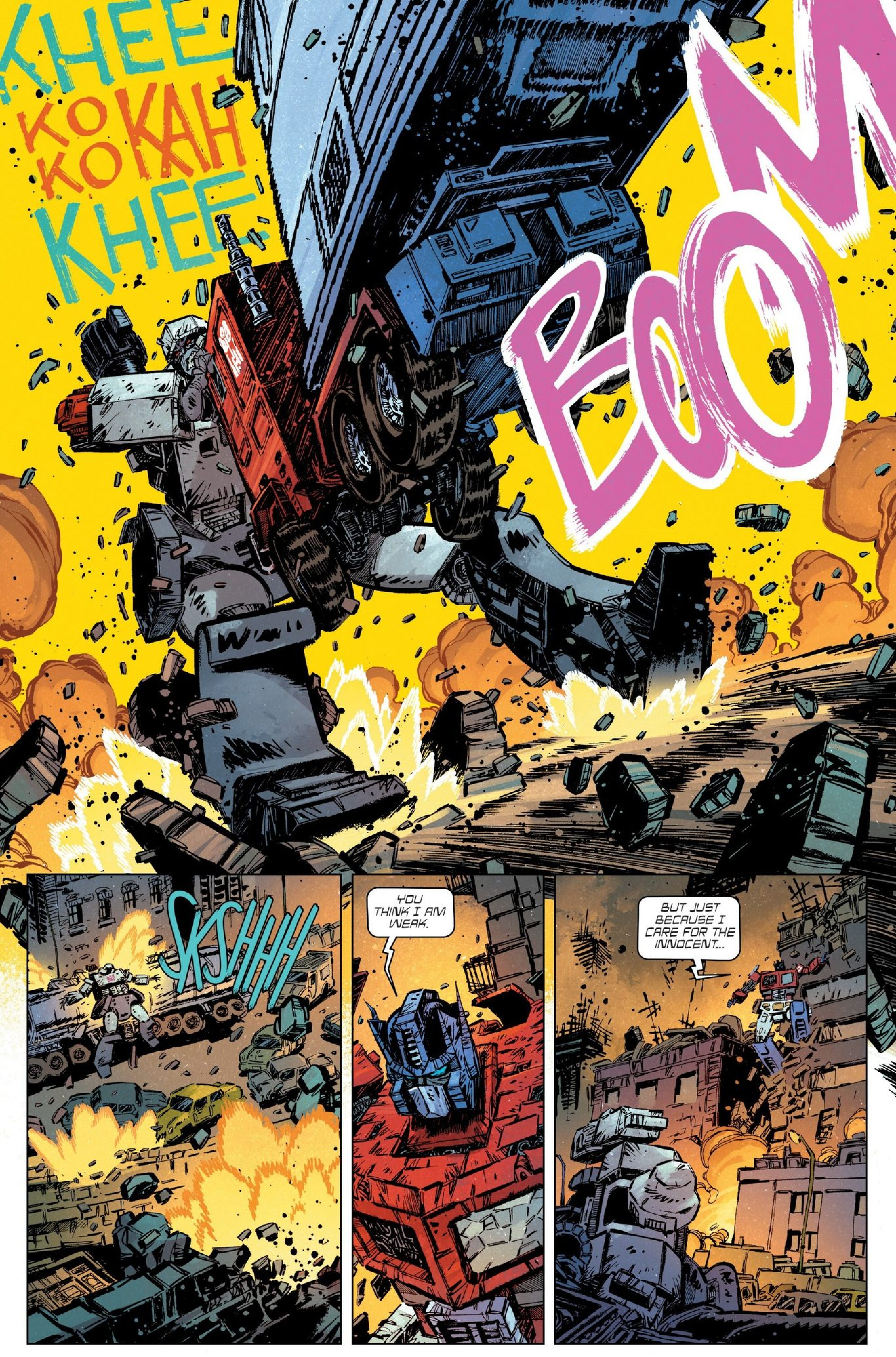
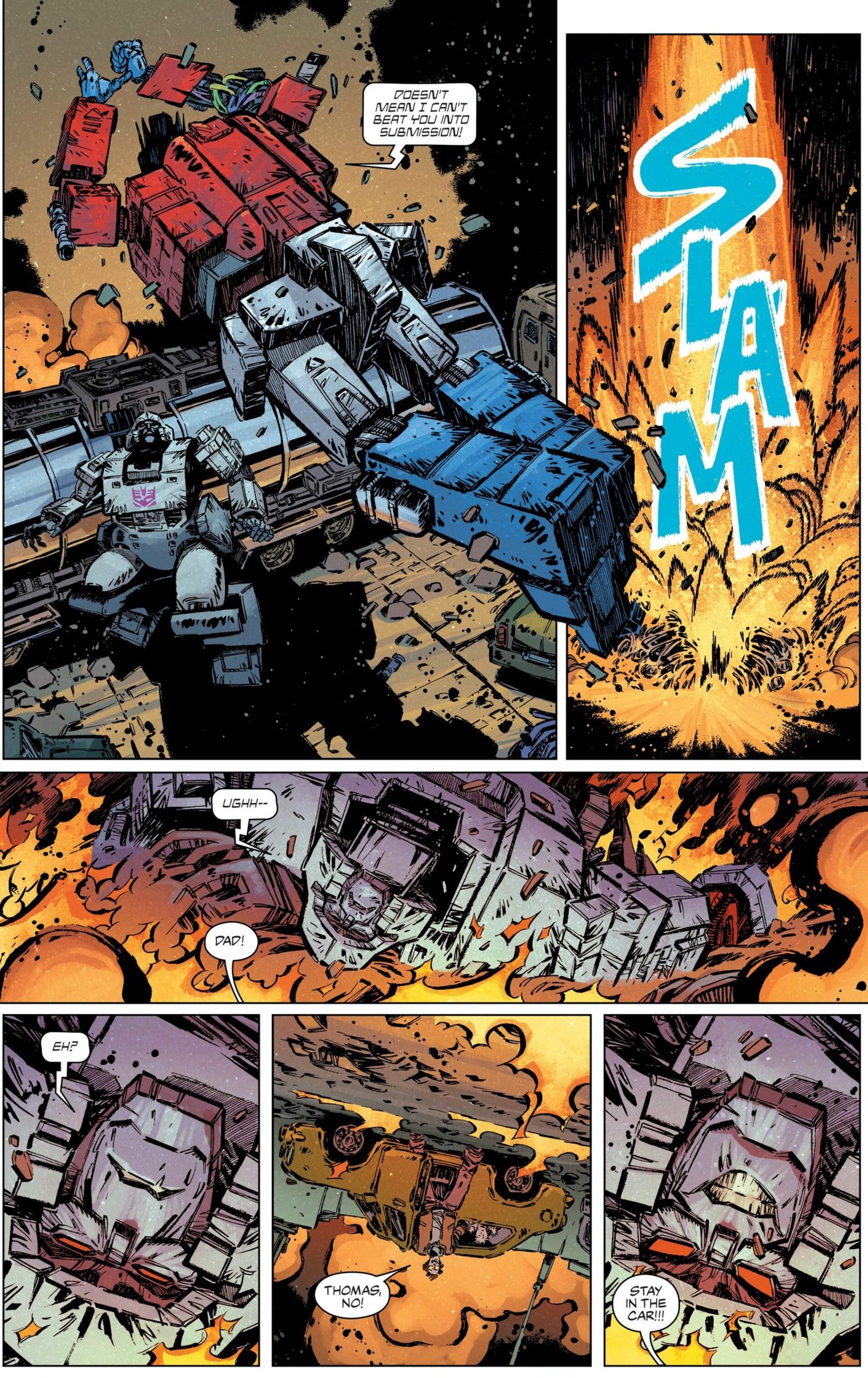
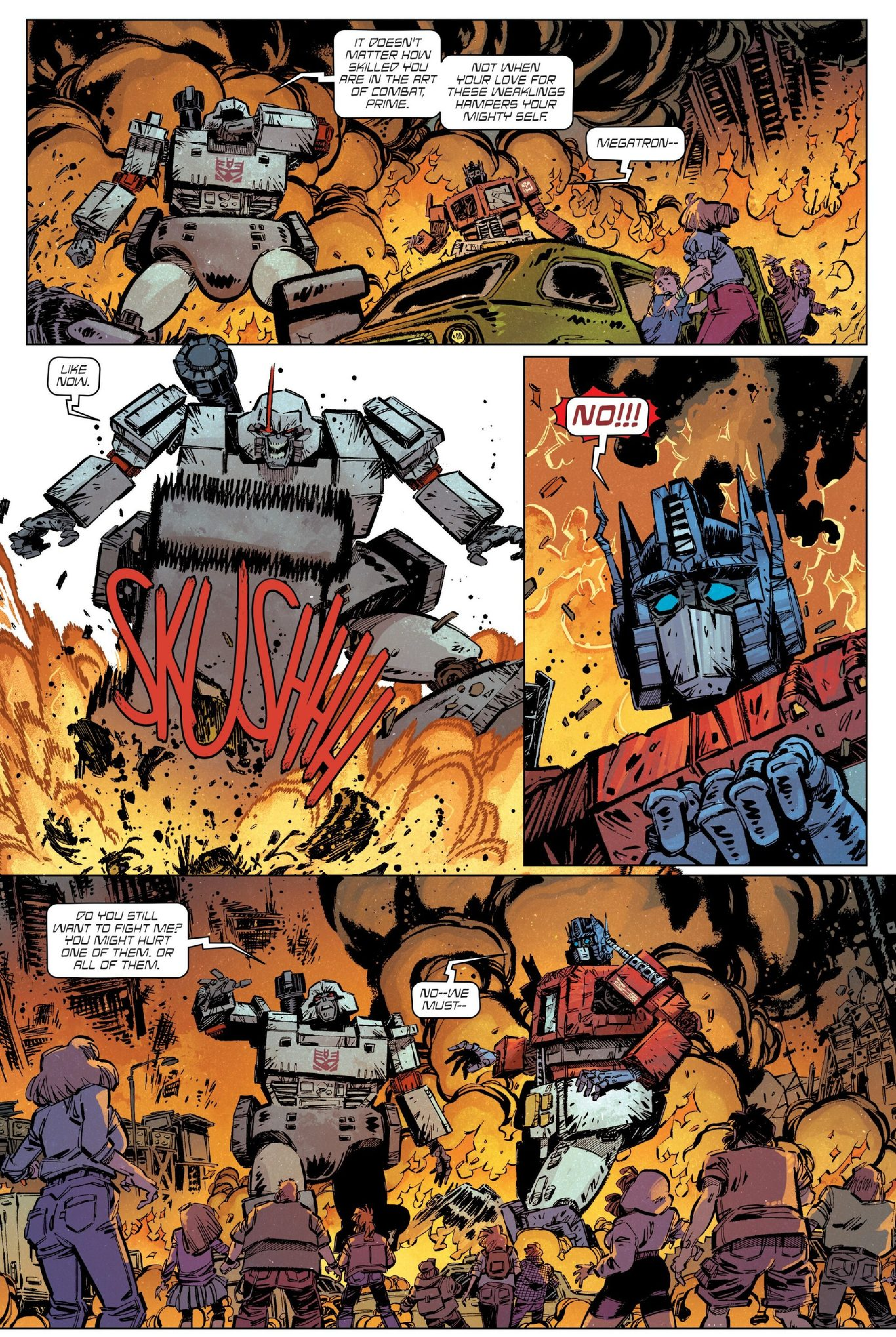
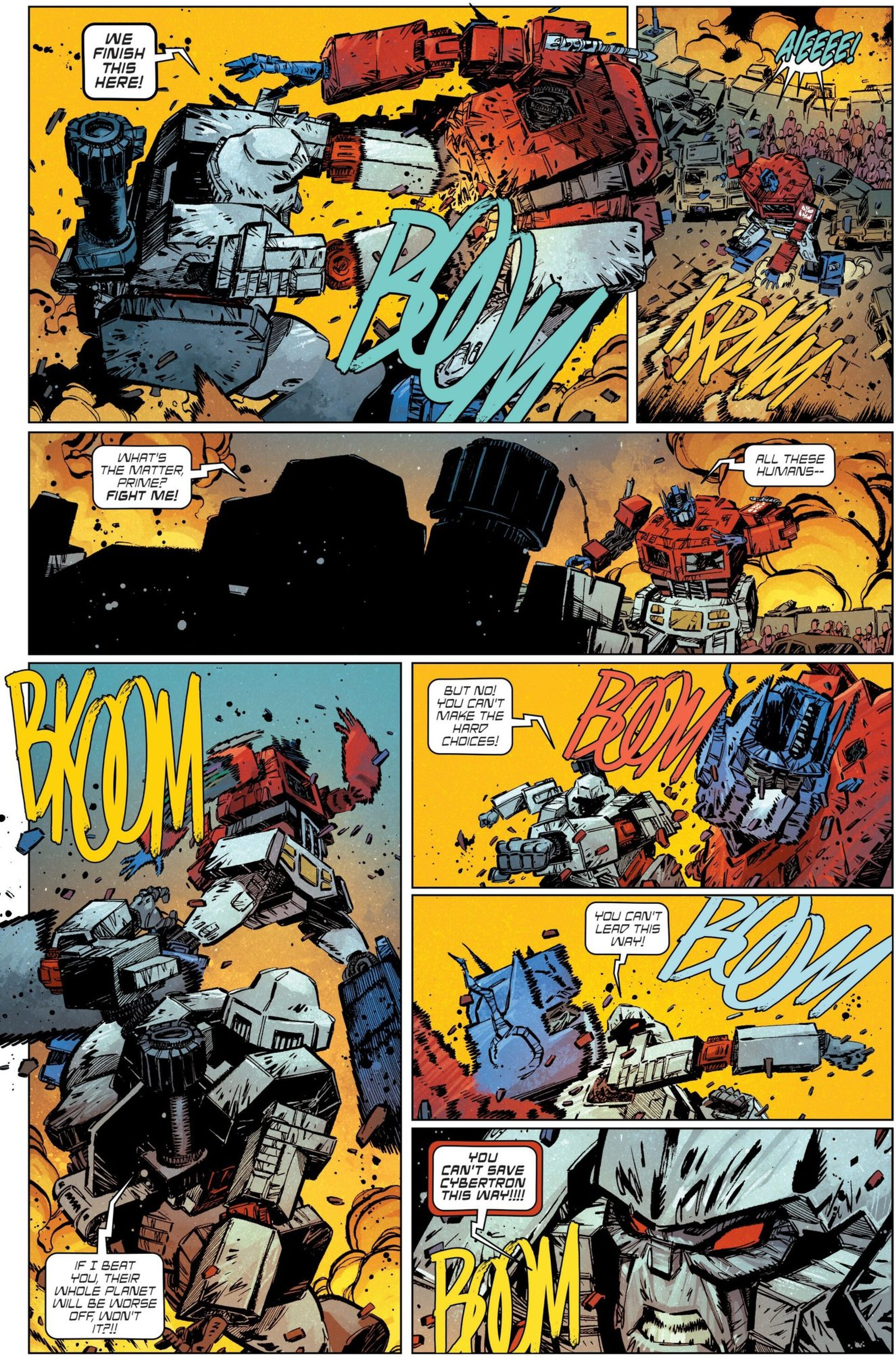

BOOMMM

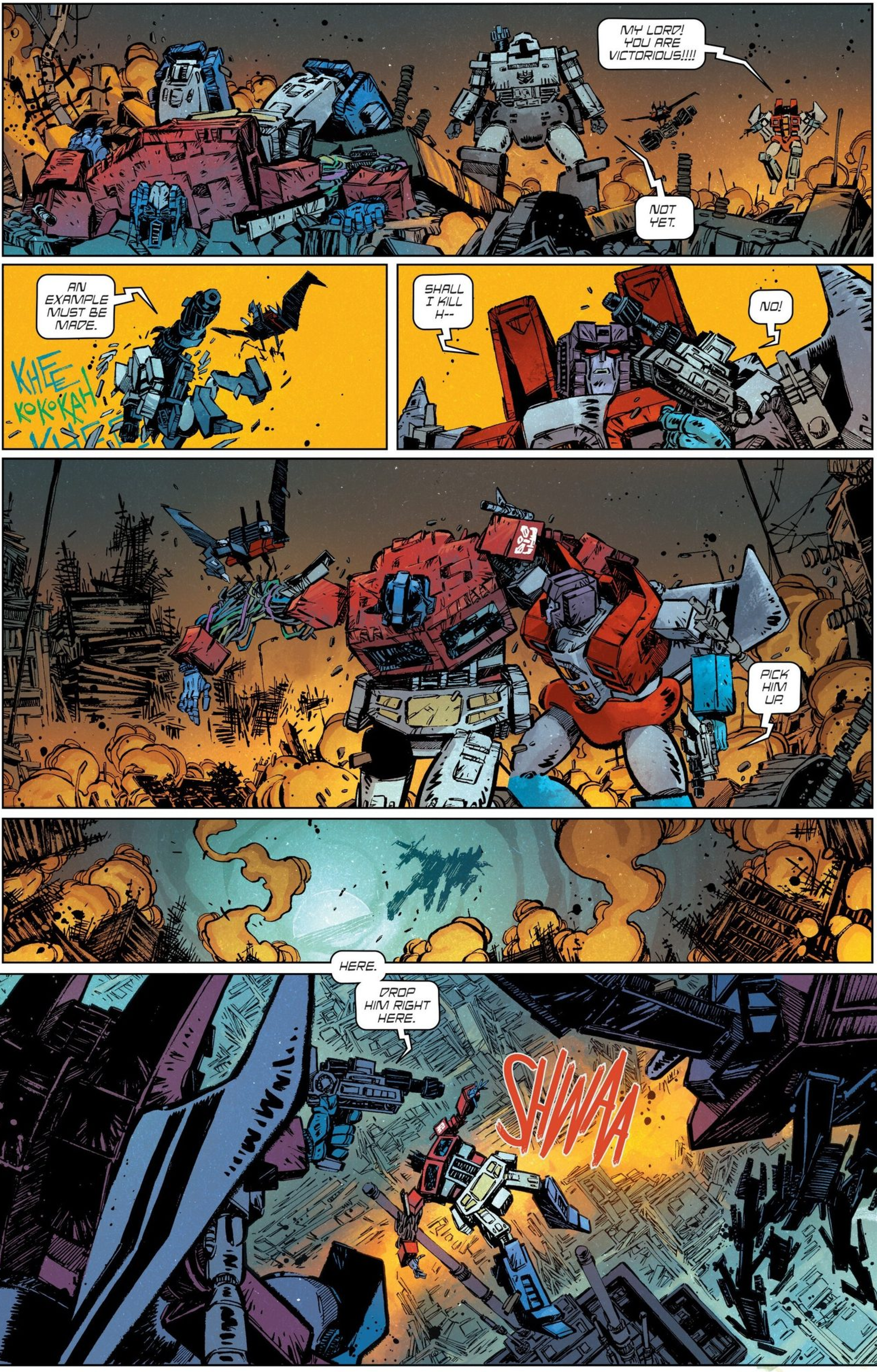

WHK-
KRONK
CHOOM
POW
KKKK
KOMKOMKOMKOM

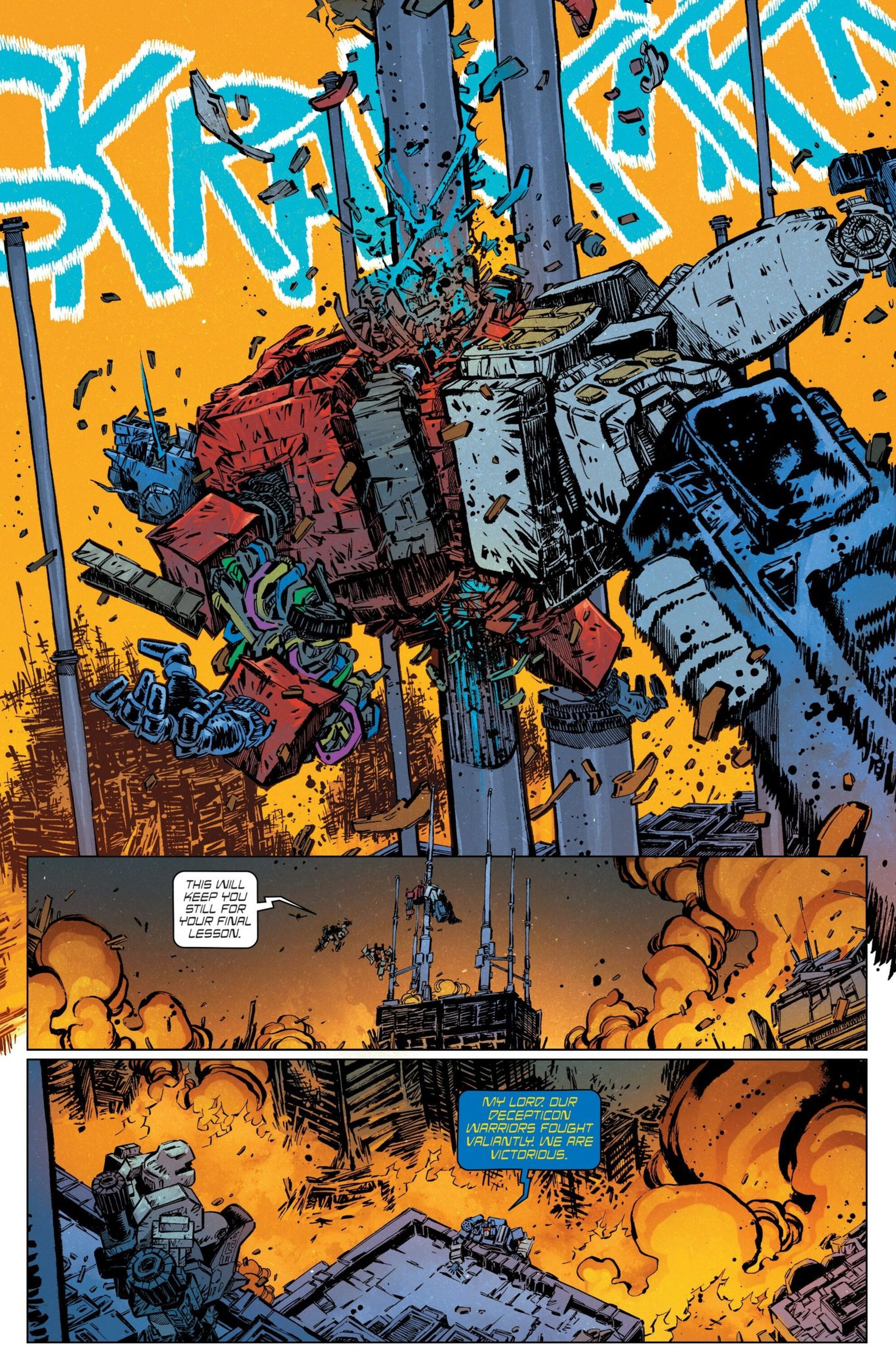

KHEE
KOKAH
KOKAH
KHEE
BOOM
SKSHHH
YOU THINK I AM WEAK.
BUT JUST BECAUSE I CARE FOR THE INNOCENT...

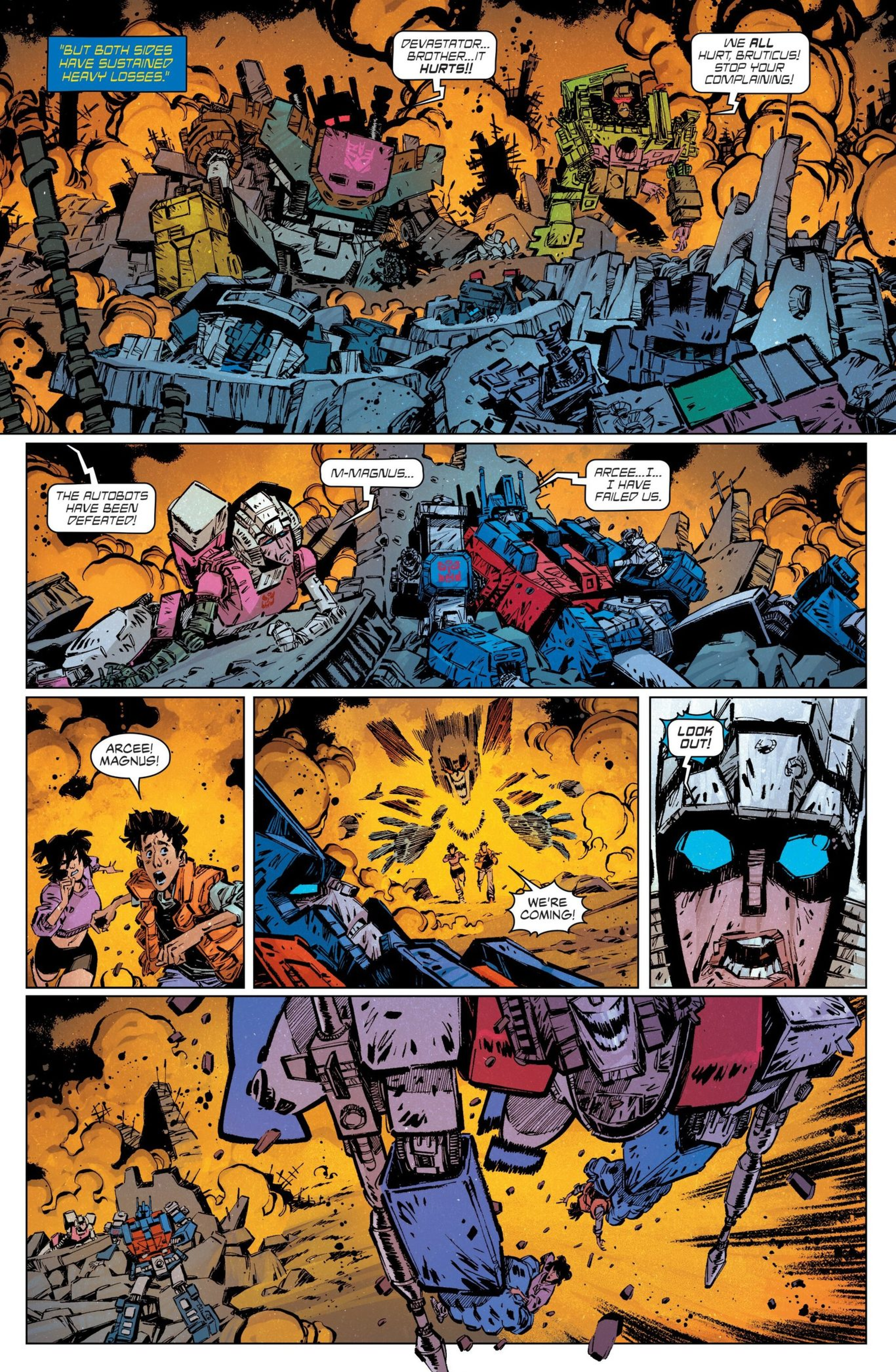

DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T BEAT YOU INTO SUBMISSION!
SLAM
UGHH--
DAD!
EH?
THOMAS, NO!
STAY IN THE CAR!!!

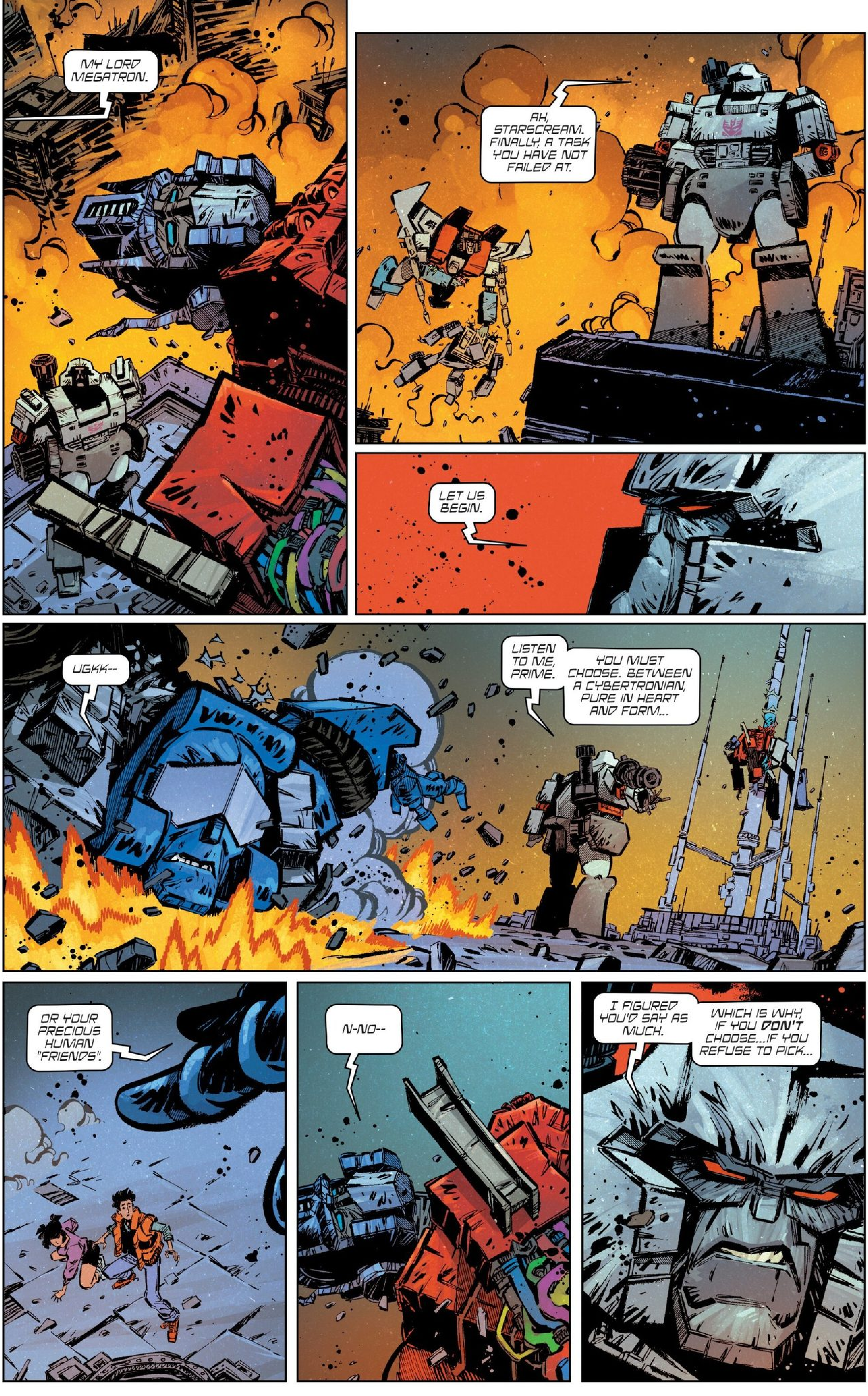

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SKILLED YOU ARE IN THE ART OF COMBAT, PRIME.
NOT WHEN YOUR LOVE FOR THESE WEAKLINGS HAMPERS YOUR MIGHTY SELF.
MEGATRON--
LIKE NOW.
SKUSHH
NO!!!
DO YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT ME? YOU MIGHT HURT ONE OF THEM. OR ALL OF THEM.
NO--WE MUST--

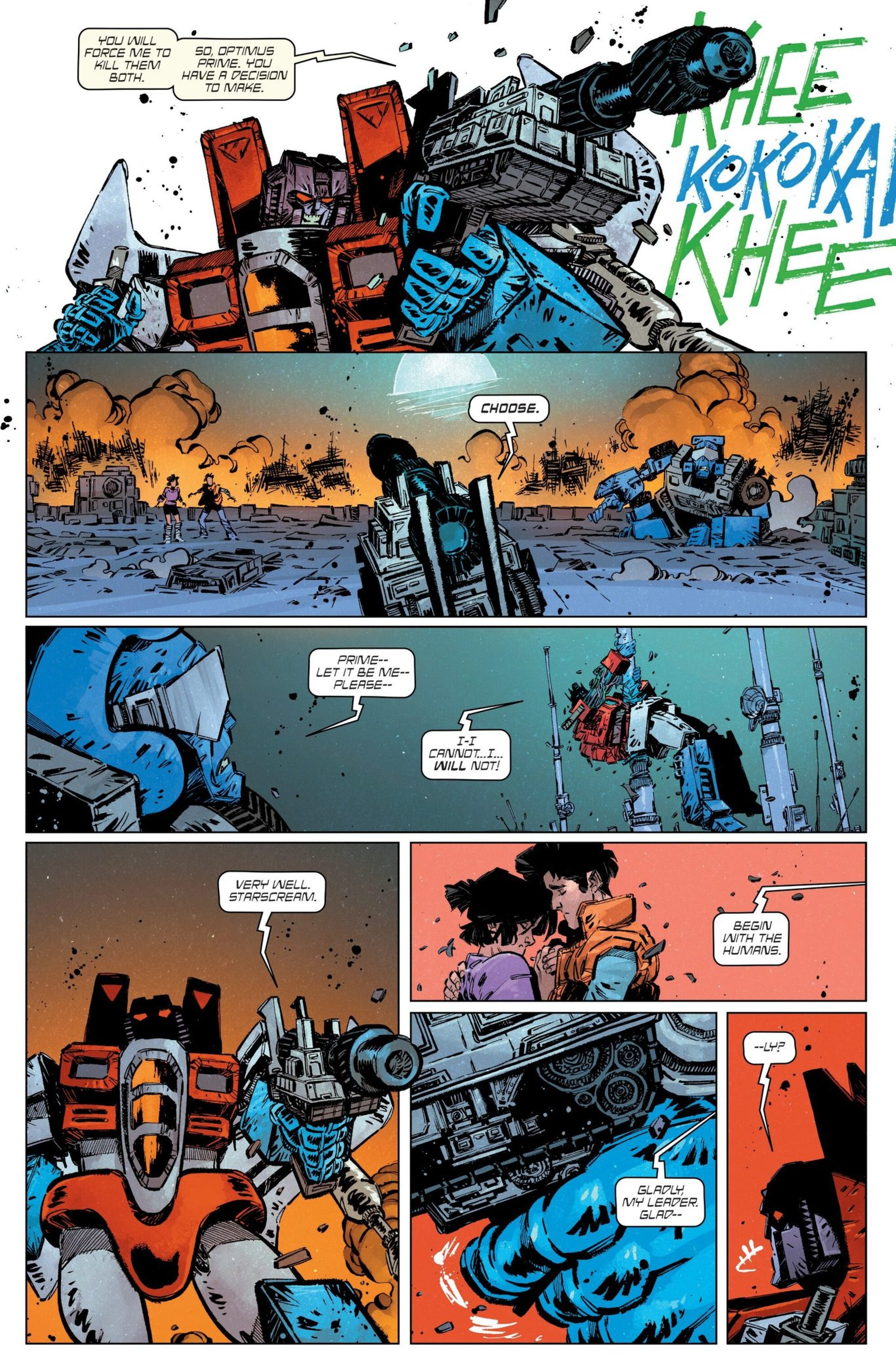

WE FINISH THIS HERE!
BOOM
AIEEEE!
KRNNN
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PRIME? FIGHT ME!
ALL THESE HUMANS--
BKOOM
IF I BEAT YOU, THEIR WHOLE PLANET WILL BE WORSE OFF, WON'T IT?!!
BUT NO! YOU CAN'T MAKE THE HARD CHOICES!
BOOM
YOU CAN'T LEAD THIS WAY!
BOOM
YOU CAN'T SAVE CYBERTRON THIS WAY!!!!
BOOM

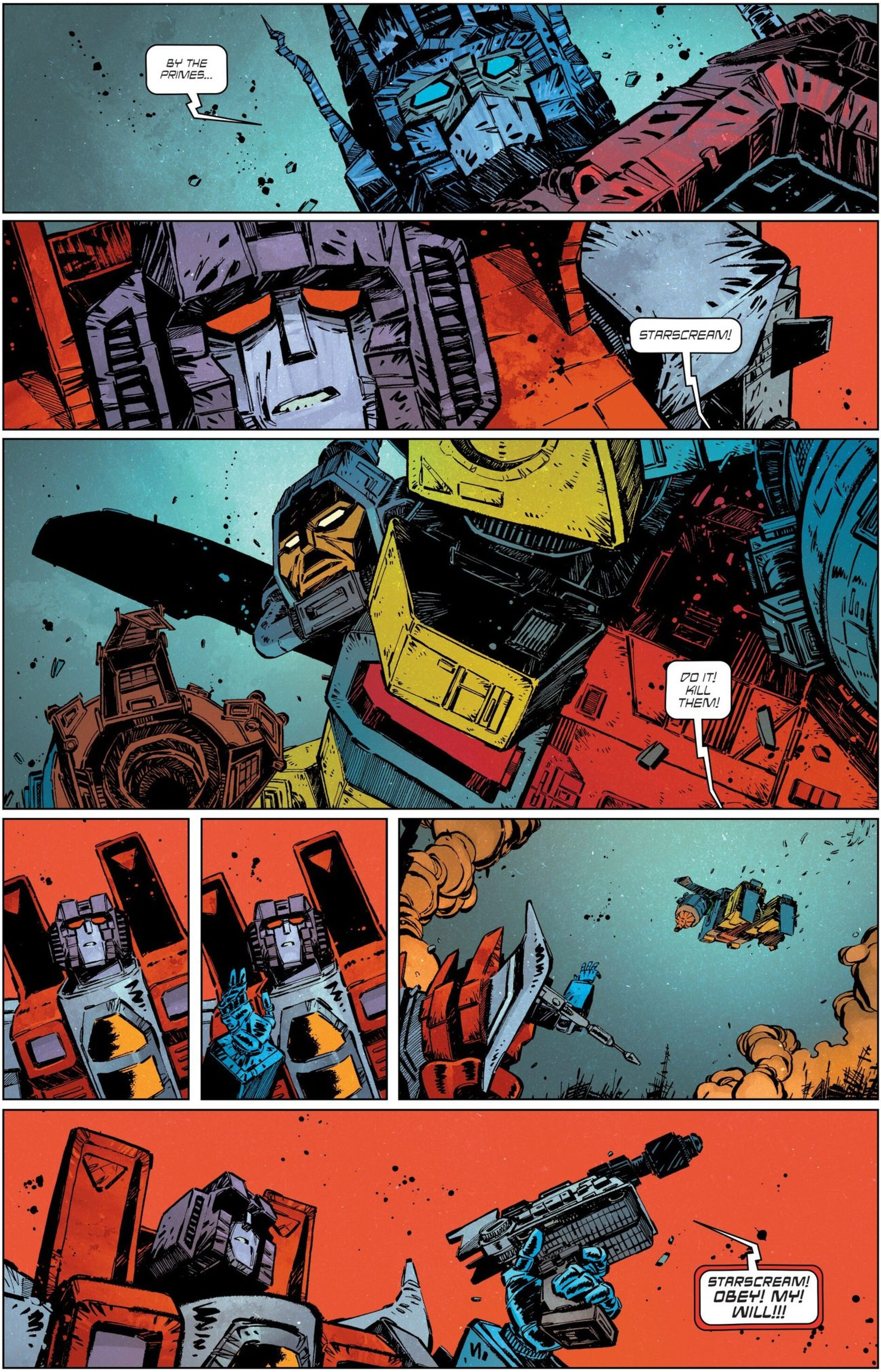

MY LORD! YOU ARE VICTORIOUS!!!!
NOT YET.
AN EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE.
KHEE
KOKOKAH
SHALL I KILL H--
NO!
PICK HIM UP.
HERE.
DROP HIM RIGHT HERE.
SHWAA

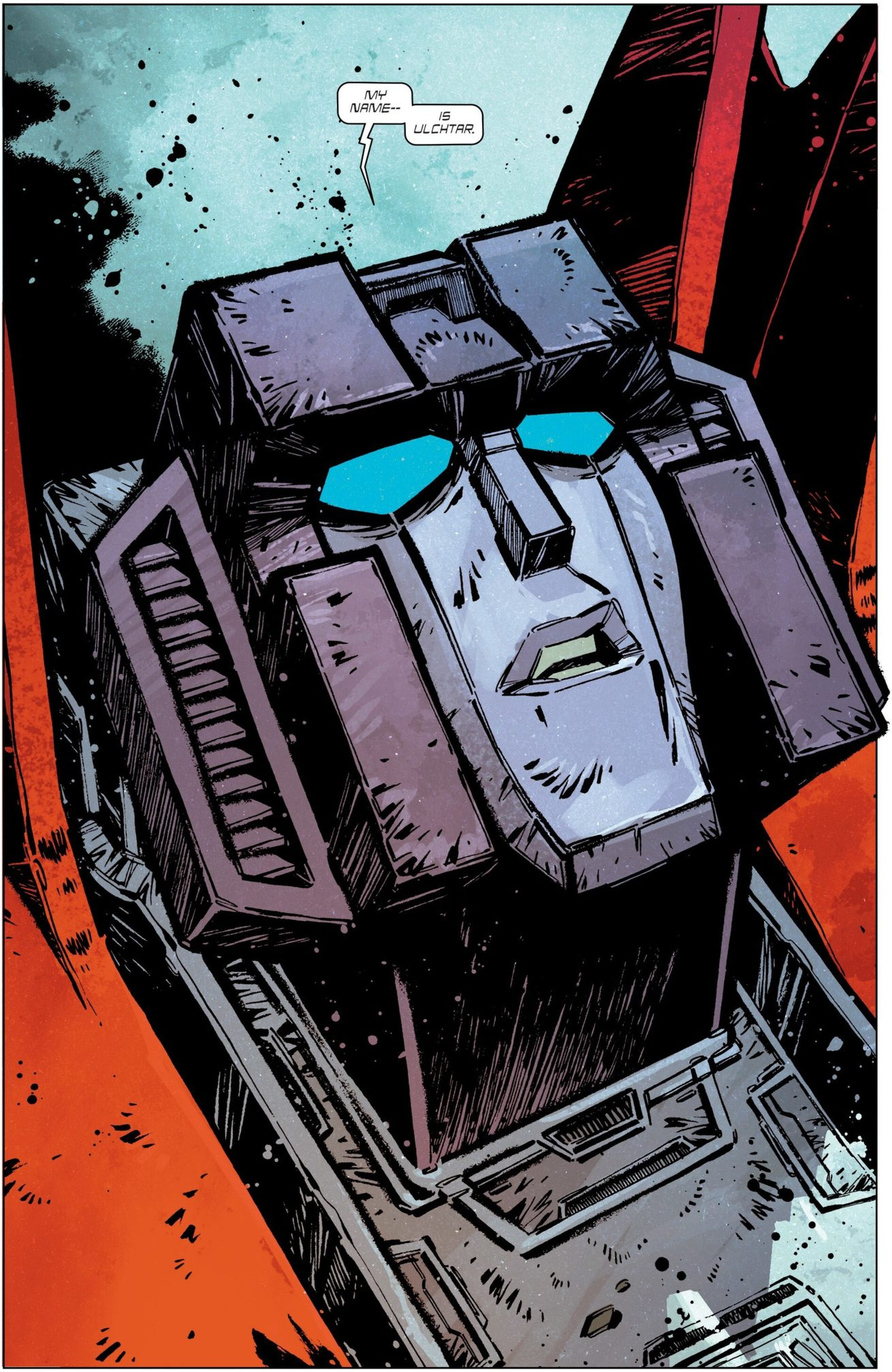

SKRAKATHOOM
THIS WILL KEEP YOU STILL FOR YOUR FINAL LESSON.
MY LORD. OUR DECEPTICON WARRIORS FOUGHT VALIANTLY. WE ARE VICTORIOUS.

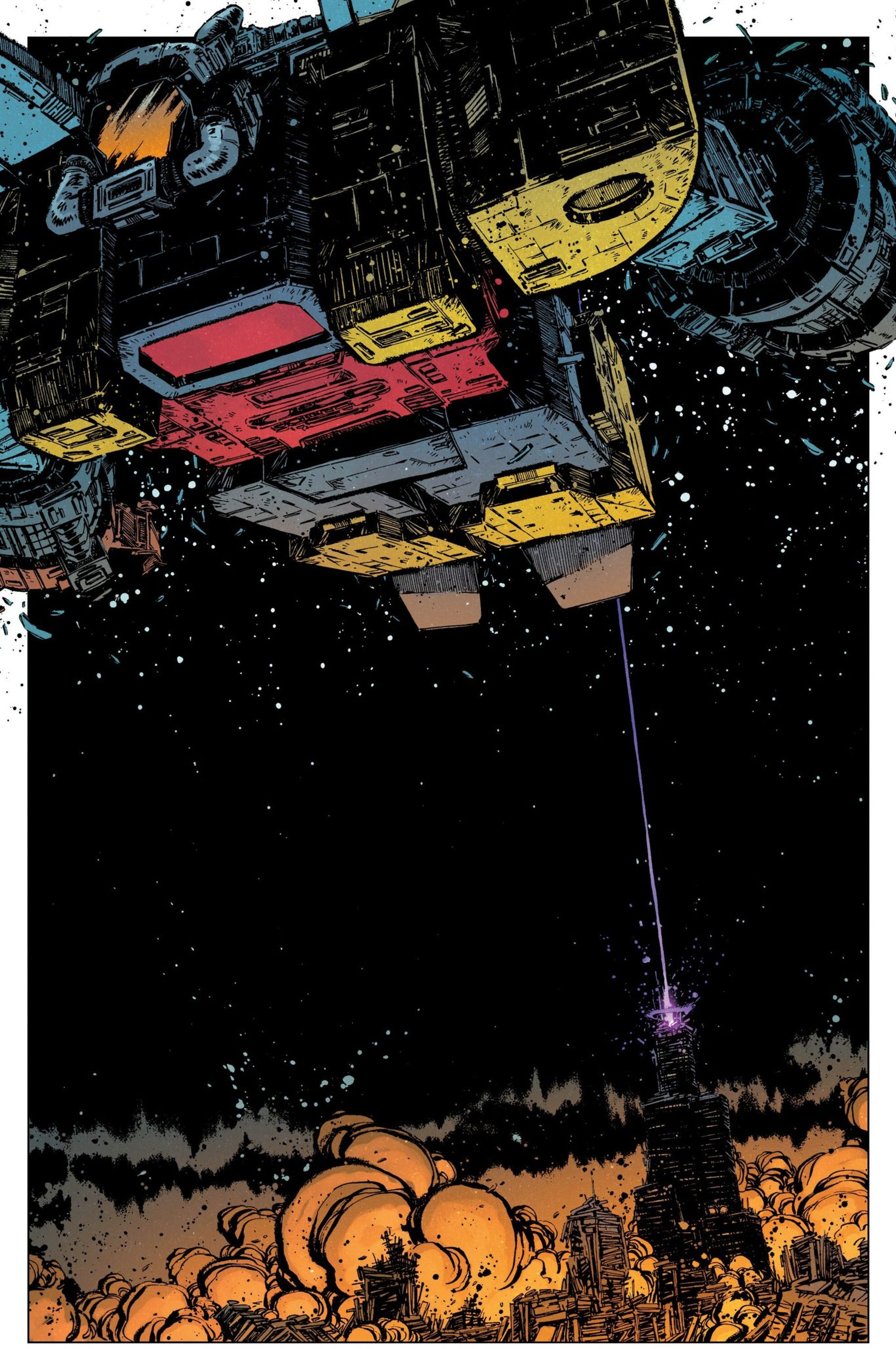

"BUT BOTH SIDES HAVE SUSTAINED HEAVY LOSSES."
DEVASTATOR... BROTHER...IT **HURTS!!**
WE **ALL** HURT, BRUTICUS! STOP YOUR COMPLAINING!
THE AUTOBOTS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED!
M-MAGNUS...
ARCEE...I... I HAVE FAILED US.
ARCEE! MAGNUS!
WE'RE COMING!
LOOK OUT!

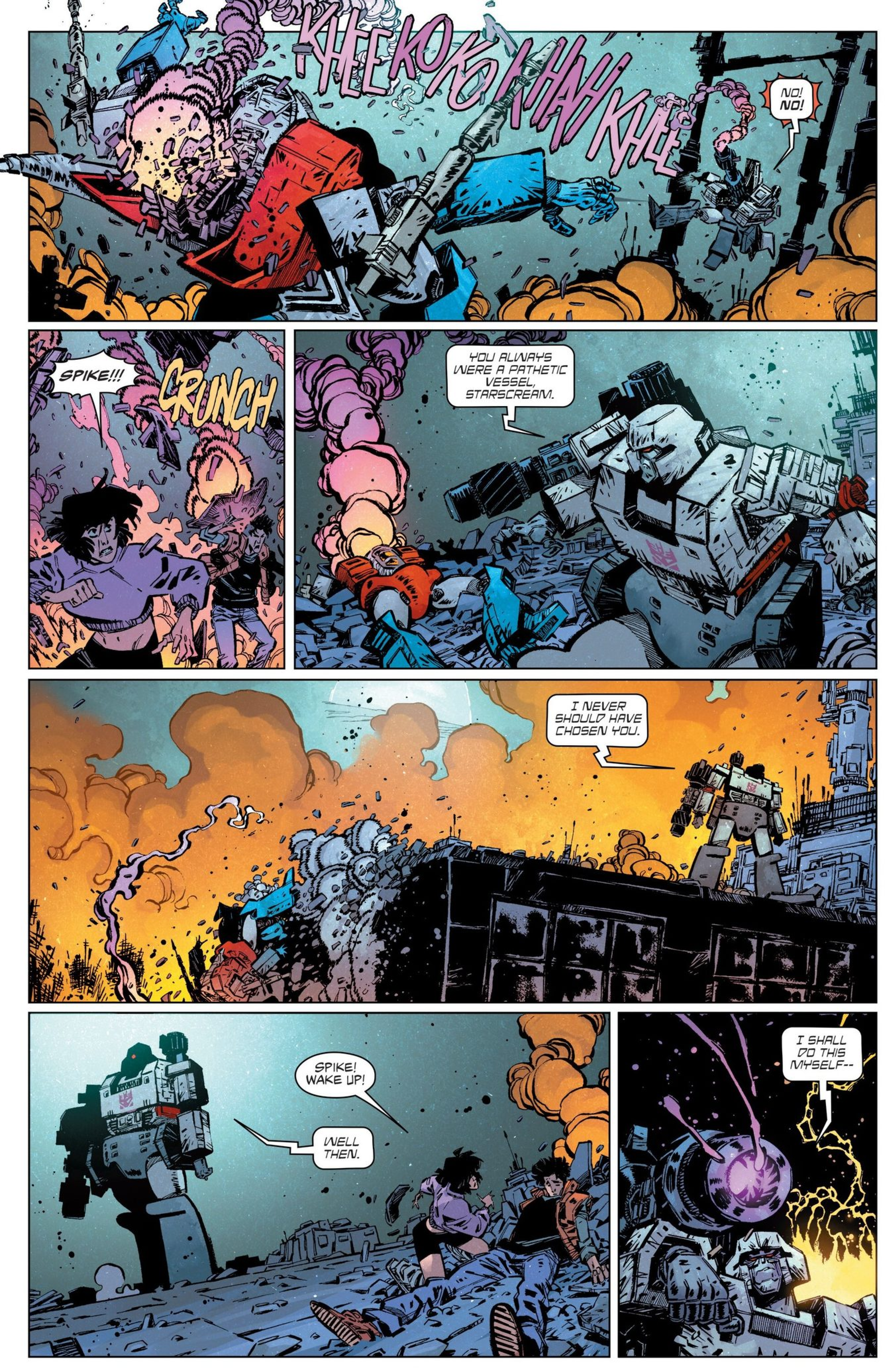

MY LORD MEGATRON.
AH, STARSCREAM. FINALLY, A TASK YOU HAVE NOT FAILED AT.
LET US BEGIN.
UGKK--
LISTEN TO ME, PRIME.
YOU MUST CHOOSE. BETWEEN A CYBERTRONIAN, PURE IN HEART AND FORM...
OR YOUR PRECIOUS HUMAN "FRIENDS".
N-NO--
I FIGURED YOU'D SAY AS MUCH.
WHICH IS WHY, IF YOU **DON'T** CHOOSE...IF YOU REFUSE TO PICK...

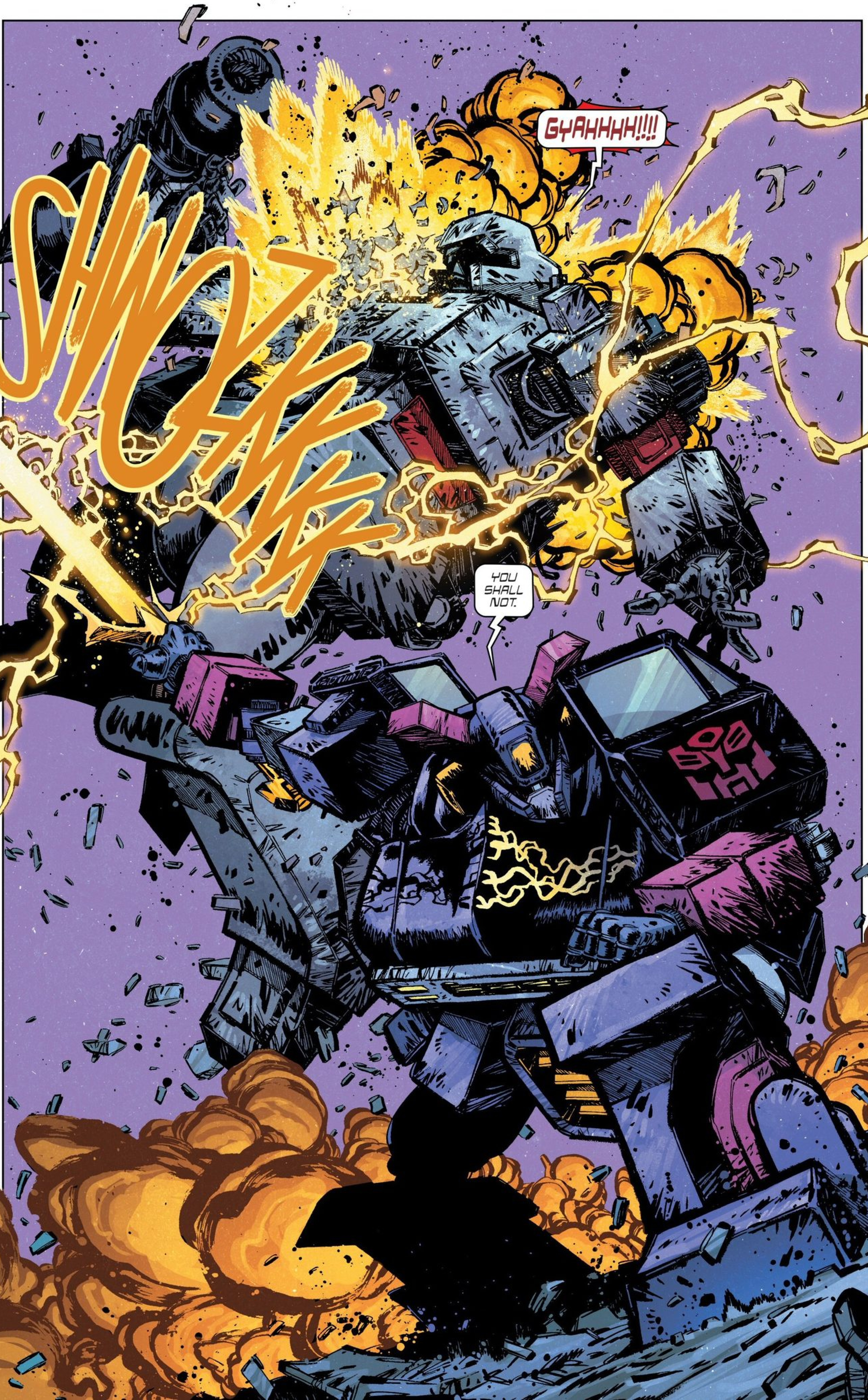

YOU WILL FORCE ME TO KILL THEM BOTH.
SO, OPTIMUS PRIME. YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE.
KHEE KOKOKA KHEE
CHOOSE.
PRIME-- LET IT BE ME-- PLEASE--
I-I CANNOT...I... **WILL** NOT!
VERY WELL. STARSCREAM.
BEGIN WITH THE HUMANS.
GLADLY, MY LEADER. GLAD--
--LY?

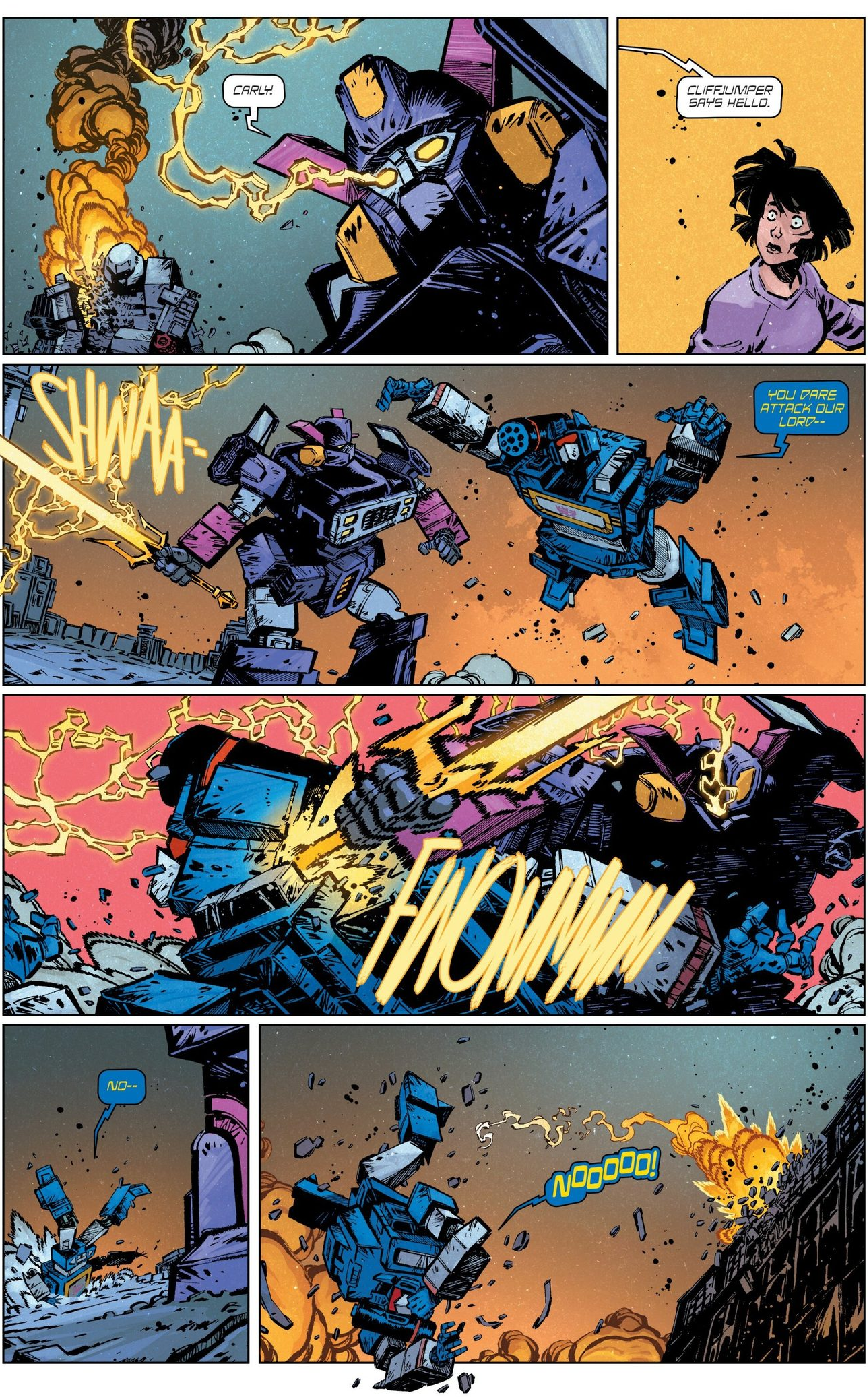

BY THE PRIMES...
STARSCREAM!
DO IT! KILL THEM!
STARSCREAM! OBEY! MY! WILL!!!

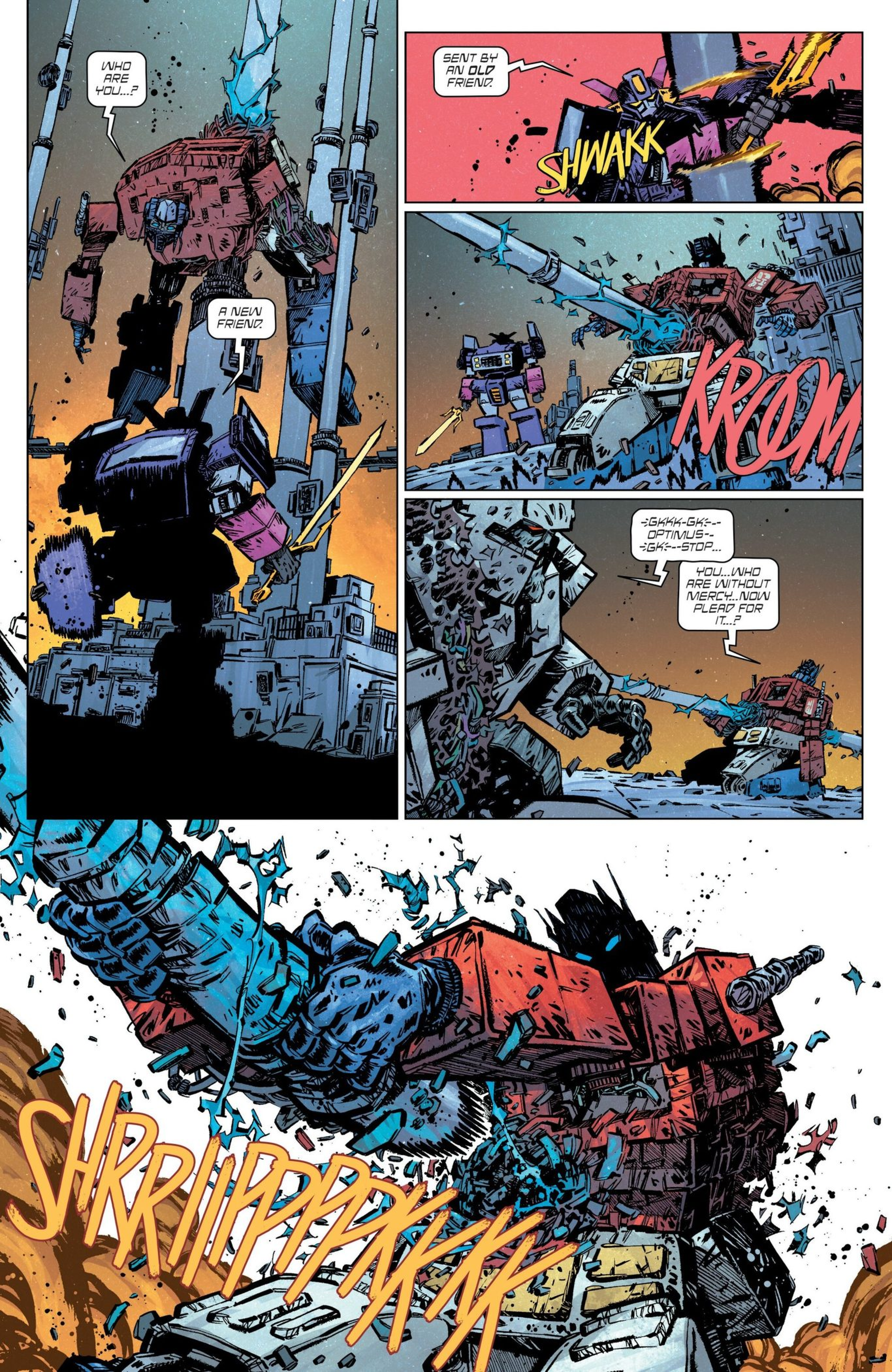

MY NAME--
IS ULCHTAR.

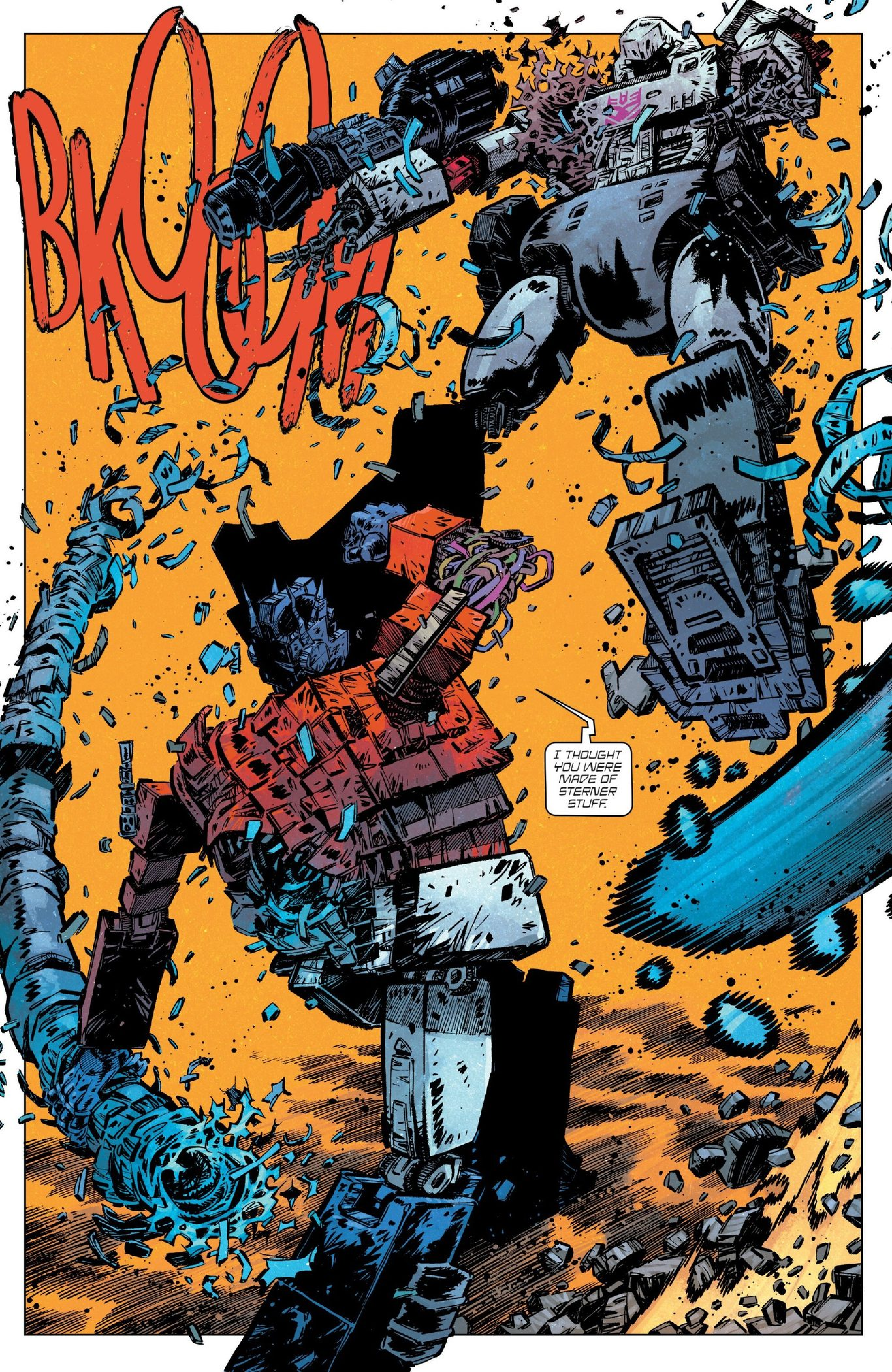


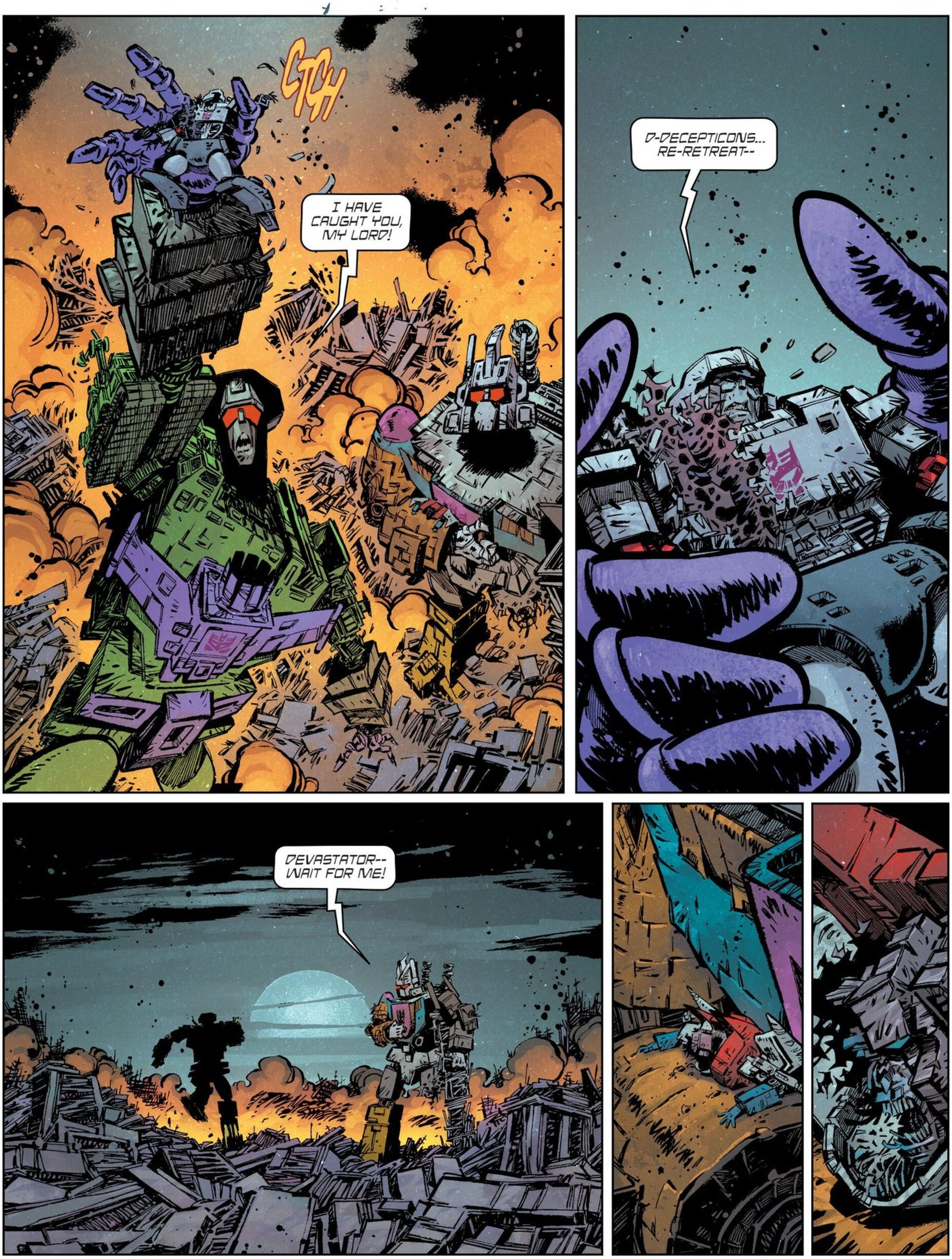

KHEEKOKOKHAH KHEE
NO! NO!
SPIKE!!!
CRUNCH
YOU ALWAYS WERE A PATHETIC VESSEL, STARSCREAM.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN YOU.
SPIKE! WAKE UP!
WELL THEN.
I SHALL DO THIS MYSELF--

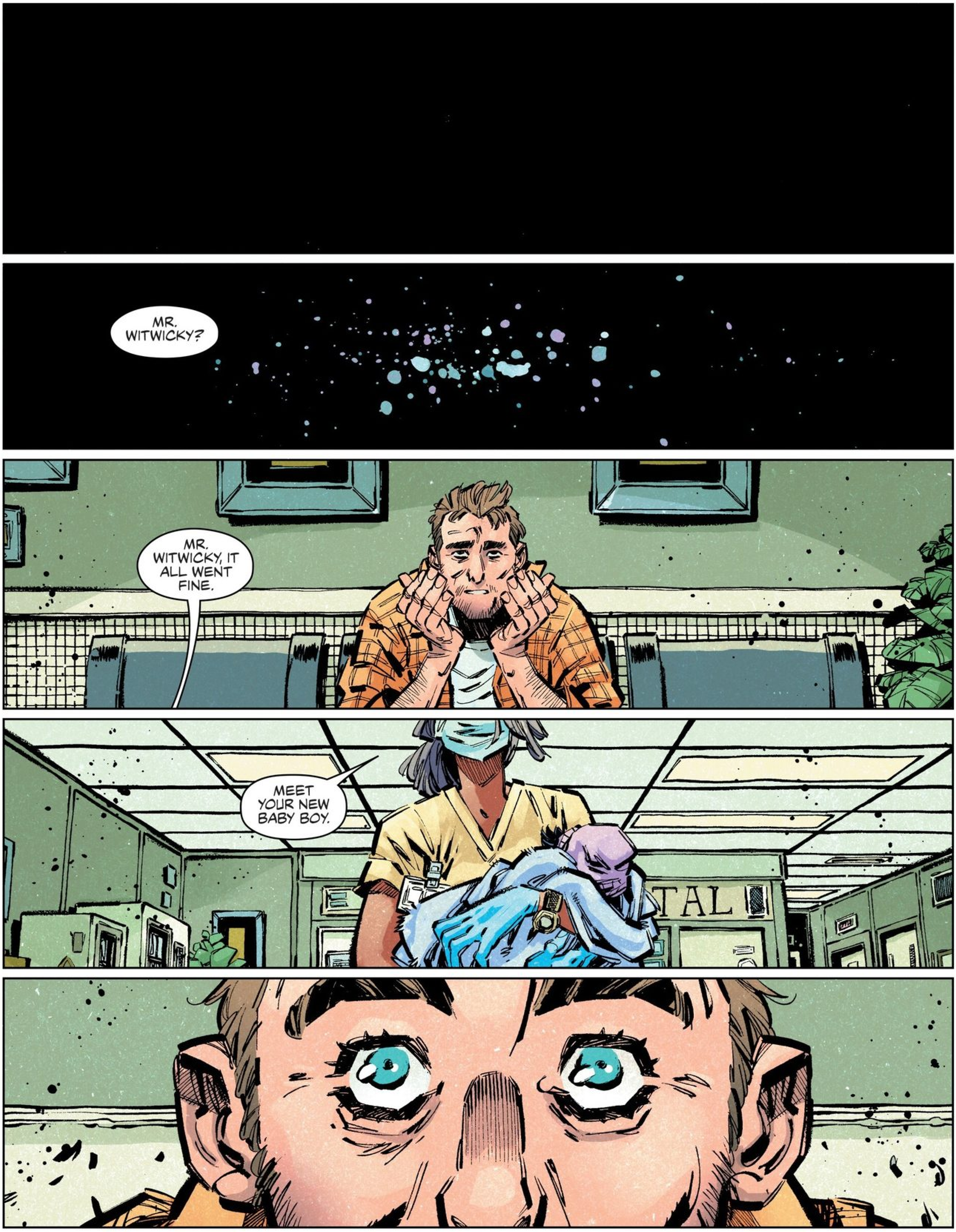

SHKAKK
GYAHHHH!!!!
YOU SHALL NOT.

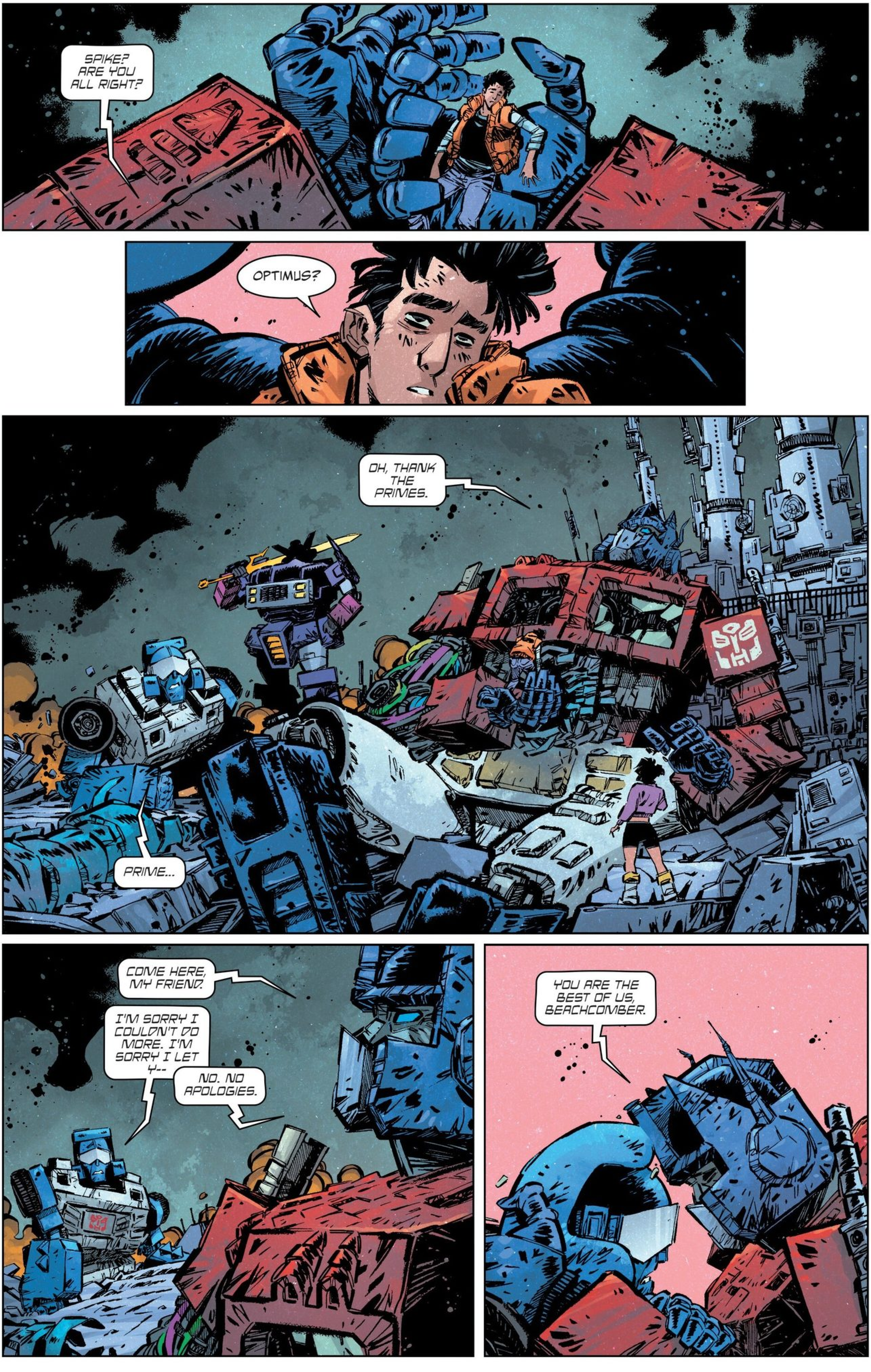

CARLY.
CLIFFJUMPER SAYS HELLO.
SHWAA--
YOU DARE ATTACK OUR LORD--
FKOMMMM
NO--
NOOOOO!

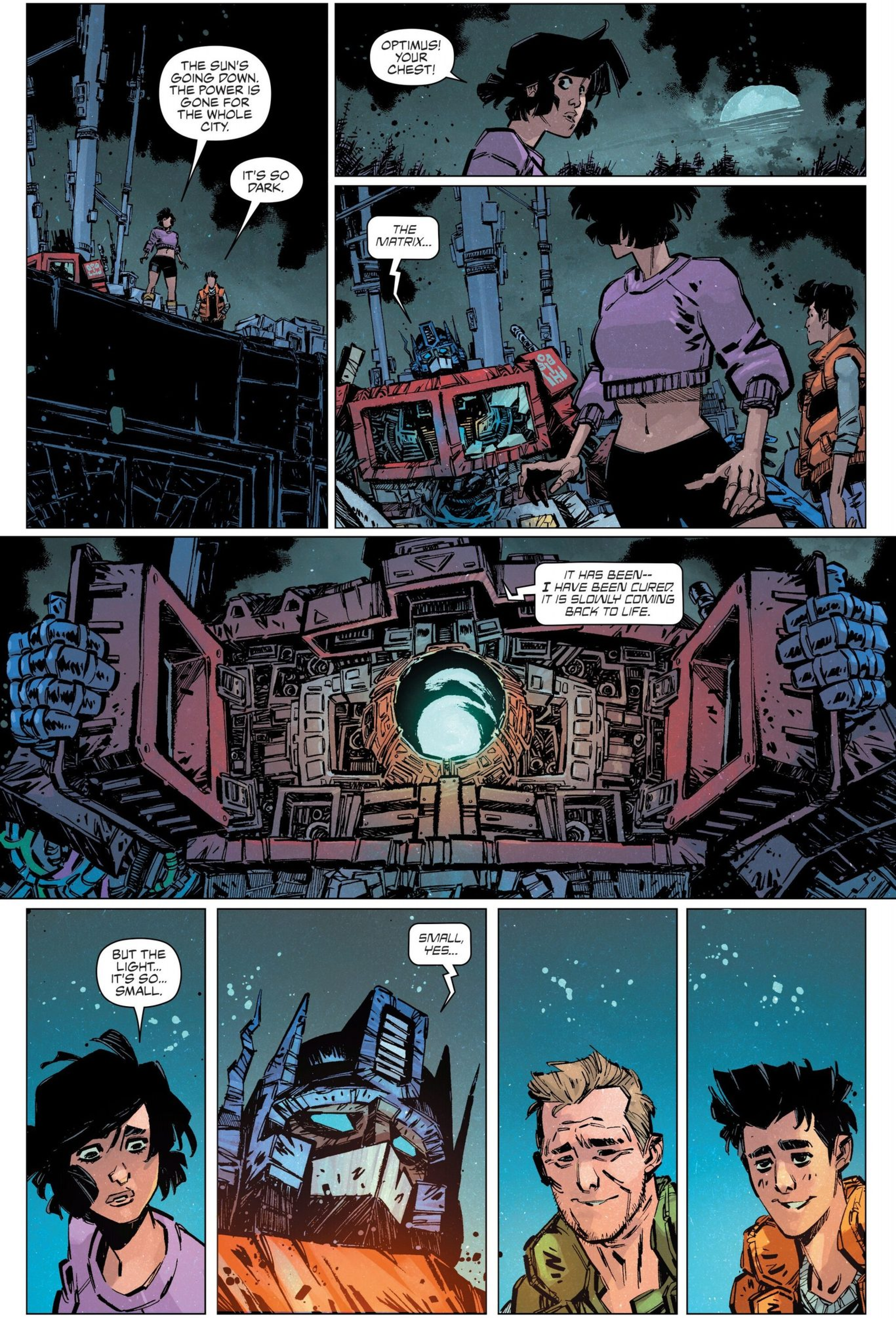

WHO ARE YOU...?
A NEW FRIEND.
SENT BY AN OLD FRIEND.
SHWAKK
KROOM
-GKKK-GK--OPTIMUS--GK--STOP...
YOU...WHO ARE WITHOUT MERCY...NOW PLEAD FOR IT...?
SHRIIPPPKKK

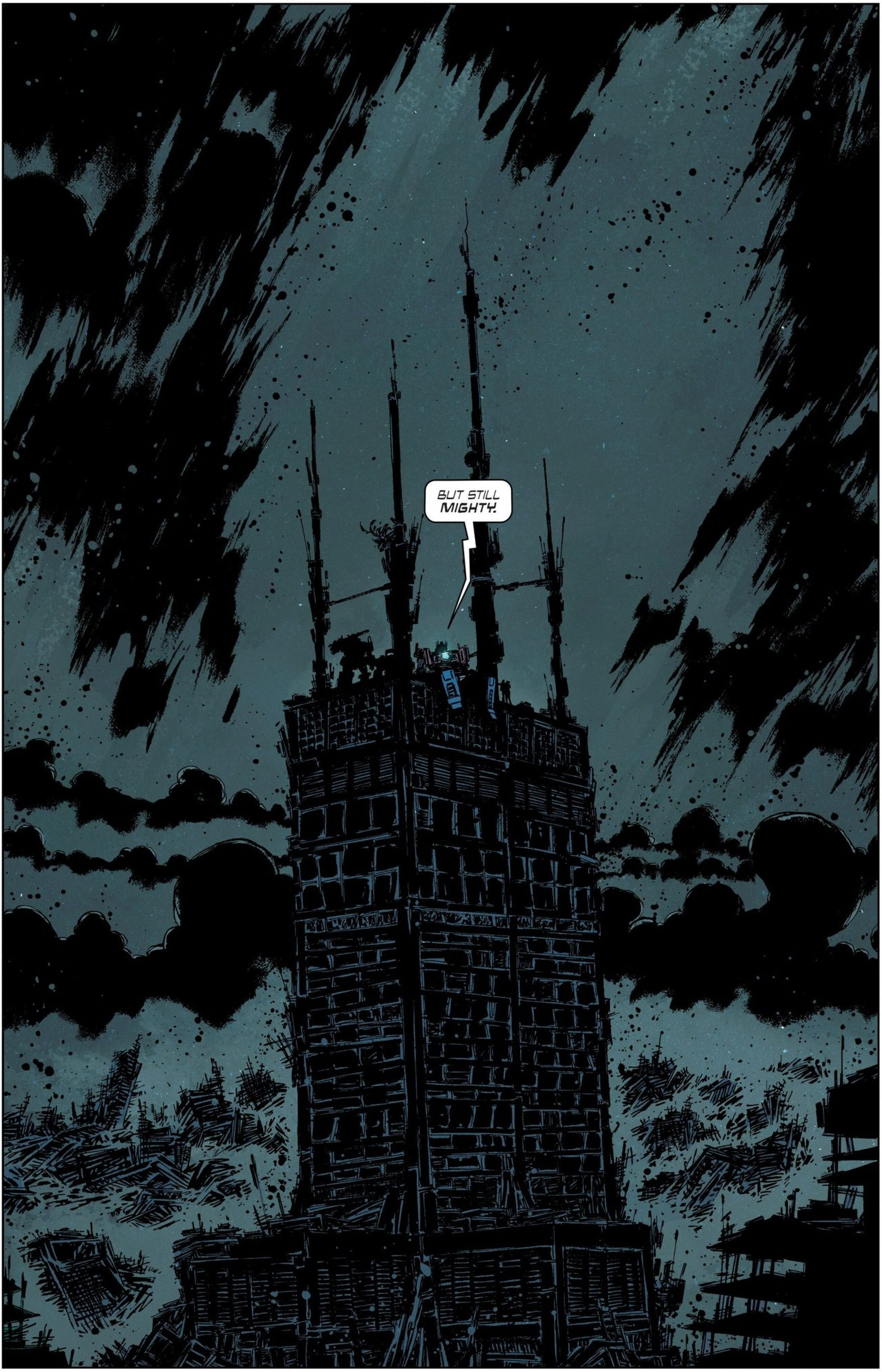

BKOOM
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MADE OF STERNER STUFF.


CTCH
I HAVE CAUGHT YOU, MY LORD!
D-DECEPTICONS... RE-RETREAT--
DEVASTATOR-- WAIT FOR ME!


MR. WITWICKY?
MR. WITWICKY, IT ALL WENT FINE.
MEET YOUR NEW BABY BOY.
TAL
"SPIKE?"


SPIKE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OPTIMUS?
OH, THANK THE PRIMES.
PRIME...
COME HERE, MY FRIEND.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T DO MORE. I'M SORRY I LET Y--
NO. NO APOLOGIES.
YOU ARE THE BEST OF US, BEACHCOMBER.


THE SUN'S GOING DOWN. THE POWER IS GONE FOR THE WHOLE CITY.
IT'S SO DARK.
OPTIMUS! YOUR CHEST!
THE MATRIX...
IT HAS BEEN-- *I* HAVE BEEN CURED. IT IS SLOWLY COMING BACK TO LIFE.
BUT THE LIGHT... IT'S SO... SMALL.
SMALL, YES...


BUT STILL MIGHTY.

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Here we are, ladies and gentlemen, at issue #24 and the end to the best-selling and award-winning run by the brilliant Daniel Warren Johnson. While I wasn't here at the start, I have the honor of being here at the end--and what an exciting, emotional and wild ride it's been. Thank you for joining me, Daniel, for one last ride here at the Matrix of Lettership to answer a few more letters before, like Omega Supreme, you disappear into the night...

Hello, my dear friends. It's a steamy August night here in Chicago, and my beautiful A/C is chugging away, keeping me comfy in this miserable heat. I love how reading and answering letters make me more appreciative of the environment around me as I engage with them. I'm not sure why that is, however. Maybe it's because, for me, it feels like when I take time to read and answer in this published, public forum, it feels etched in stone, for someone to read years in the future. So, to you, reader, whether this issue just came out, or ten years down the line, I hope you are well, and you enjoyed this last part of my run on TRANSFORMERS. Poor Ben has been tracking me down to get me to finally answer this last letters column. I can't lie, I've been putting it off, because I knew it was the last one, and it makes me sad. It's been an honor and a pleasure, a very literal dream come true, to work on this comic book. There are so many words to say, but as I try to write them down, it almost feels like I'm shouting directly into the wind. I hope my feelings for this world and my struggle to find a place in it have been clear in these pages, and what a privilege it is to attempt that with both the Autobots and Decepticons (and humans, too!).

Let's get down to it, then.

* * *

Hello DWJ and the rest of the Transformers team.

Let me get it out of the way: this is my first time writing in to a letters page! And I've wanted to write in from the moment I put down issue one, I just didn't have anything to say. Well now I do! I told myself I had to write in before DWJ left the series. I'll admit I hadn't read much of your work before, Daniel, but you have quickly become one of my favorite artists/writers! And something about an artist who is also a writer and has full control over their work I think is really amazing. Not that Jorge Corona, Jason Howard, and Ludo Lullabi haven't been amazing and brought their own unique vibe to each issue but those first 6 have changed me forever!

Ok now I only have two questions both for DWJ

1) What kind of car do you drive/what's your dream car? Because "If you're gonna ride, Danno, ride in style".

I know I should say anything except a Lambo, but yeah...I wanna try a Lambo. As for my actual ride, I have a wonderful Honda 2024 CRV that is a joy to drive, and it fits my kids and my golf clubs just fine, and the A/C works like a charm. I love it so much and it makes me so happy whenever I'm driving it around. This probably makes me very lame.

2) Was it your decision to include the 13 primes in issue 22 or did that come from higher up considering that's a big theme in the toys right now?

Def a higher up call. When I wrote the script, I just called it "The Hall of the Primes" and had no idea who or what that might include!

Thank you for everything you have done during your time with Transformers, Daniel Warren Johnson. I think I speak on behalf of the entire Transformer community, we will miss you!

'Til all are one,
Vander Moore-Heinen

I'm glad you wrote in Vander, JUST in time for our final issue. (And thank you for the two years of support, it means everything.)

Vander, you're a real one, and thank you for all your kind words in your letter.

* * *

DWJ, JC @ Matrix of Lettership,

What kind of letter col title is that, the Matrix of Lettership? I don't get it; is Lettership even a word? But hey, issue #22 of Transformers was a wild ride, in a good way; lot of emotion! And here I thought you guys were just phoning it in cause you're being replaced? Any chance the Autobots can steal the Energon they need from the Decepticons, who seem to have plenty? One great issue.

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

Thank you, Andrew, the kind words are appreciated! And if "lettership" isn't a word, IT IS NOW!

Thanks, Andrew! You know I love EMOTION. Cry baby cry!

Bah-weep-graaaaagnah wheep ni ni bong!

Hey Energon Universe team! My name is Mia, I'm a young autistic Transformers fan (of basically anything G1) and an artist as well. I started collecting IDW Transformers comics, but then, when the Energon Universe comics first came out, I got super excited. It felt like a while since we TF fans had good comics to collect and read, but thanks to DWJ, Jorge Corona and everyone else working on the Energon Universe comics, we got a line of comics that we can collect and read endlessly! The art styles are wonderful, the story is amazing, and the character development is fantastic.

The Energon Universe comics have inspired me a lot to start my own Transformers fan comic and continuing to draw the characters I love, and the fact that it's kinda G1 makes it even better! The hype is real, and it was about time we got something both new and familiar for us readers of all audiences to enjoy. The comics really capture how messed up war is, how anything can go horribly wrong in almost unimaginable ways. I could go on for hours if this wasn't a letter.

These comics are awesome, and they're better than most books I've read (heh). I don't exactly know how to keep saying how much I love these comics and what else to say, but, I know for sure that with these comics, I'm happy. So, again, thank you Energon Universe crew for these comics, keep it up, and roll out!

Mia

Thanks for writing in, Mia, and supporting our humble series! I'll keep an eye out for your fan comic!

Hey. Mia! Thank you for your letter. I love that you're doing a fan comic. I love making those myself for a multitude of different worlds and characters. It's a great way to show appreciation for something that's meant so much to me, so I am very honored that you're even thinking of doing one for the TF world. Good luck to you!

All right, with a heavy heart, it's time to sign off...thank you for such terrific, heart-felt work, the hours spent on the phone talking about Transformers and just being an all-around awesome dude. We'll miss you, Daniel, but you're welcome back anytime… stay outta trouble!

See y'all in 30 days when the new creative team of Robert Kirkman and Dan Mora, with a little help from Jorge Corona, launch a thrilling new direction for TRANSFORMERS! It's gonna get nuts!

-Ben

Again, there aren't enough words to wrap it up and feel GOOD about the end, but at least let me say thanks to a few people. Ben and Sean, thanks for being wonderful editors and helping get my ideas across to the people upstairs and for talking me through all the ups and (very few) downs. Thanks to Mike and Rus for their wonderful additions to my art, and thanks of course to Jorge, Jason and Ludo, for helping bring my wild wrestling moves and big moments to beautiful 2D reality. Thanks to the entire Skybound team for having my back and helping make this book happen month after month. Thanks to all the retailers for really coming through with the support of this book, and to the readers (of course!) for trusting me to make something cool, and being so supportive and vocal about it once they read the first issue. Thanks to my awesome wife Rachel, who ENCOURAGED me to do a Transformers comic, and to my wonderful kids, Rachel and Bo, for cheering me up and stepping on my original art, (Bo literally stepped on the issue one cover while it was on the floor, my fault really) and reminding me to not take things too seriously. Thanks to Papa for buying me that Optimus Prime in the middle of the 90s, and thanks to my Mom for encouraging me to continue to try and get better at drawing Optimus, even when I felt I never could get it right. It took a mountain of people to get me to this place, including the original creators of the Transformers. Ultimately, it was the human heart and hands that brought these wonderful characters to life, and changed all of our lives in the process. I doubt they thought they were doing anything Earth shattering, but the simple truth is that the world can be deeply changed by the stroke of a pen, with words or with lines. Spread out your passions for the world to take in. People will watch. People will be moved. You'll see.

'Til all are one, baby.

Love,

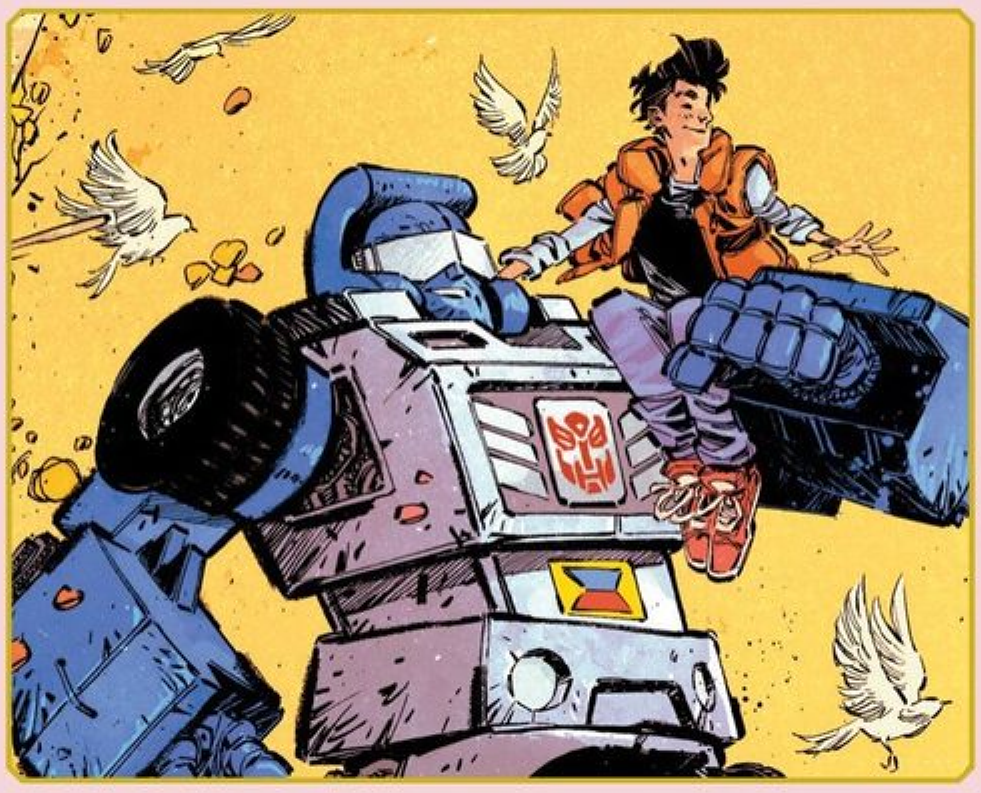
DWJ

ENERGON EXPERIENCE

TRANSFORMERS #24 marks the end of Daniel Warren Johnson's historic (and freakin' AWESOME) run on the series and WHAT AN ENDING, EH? Next month Robert Kirkman and Dan Mora begin an all-new era that will redefine More Than Meets The Eye!

New allies! New enemies! Old rivalries renewed and ancient history uncovered! Don't miss it!

-ARUNE SINGH, VP, BRAND

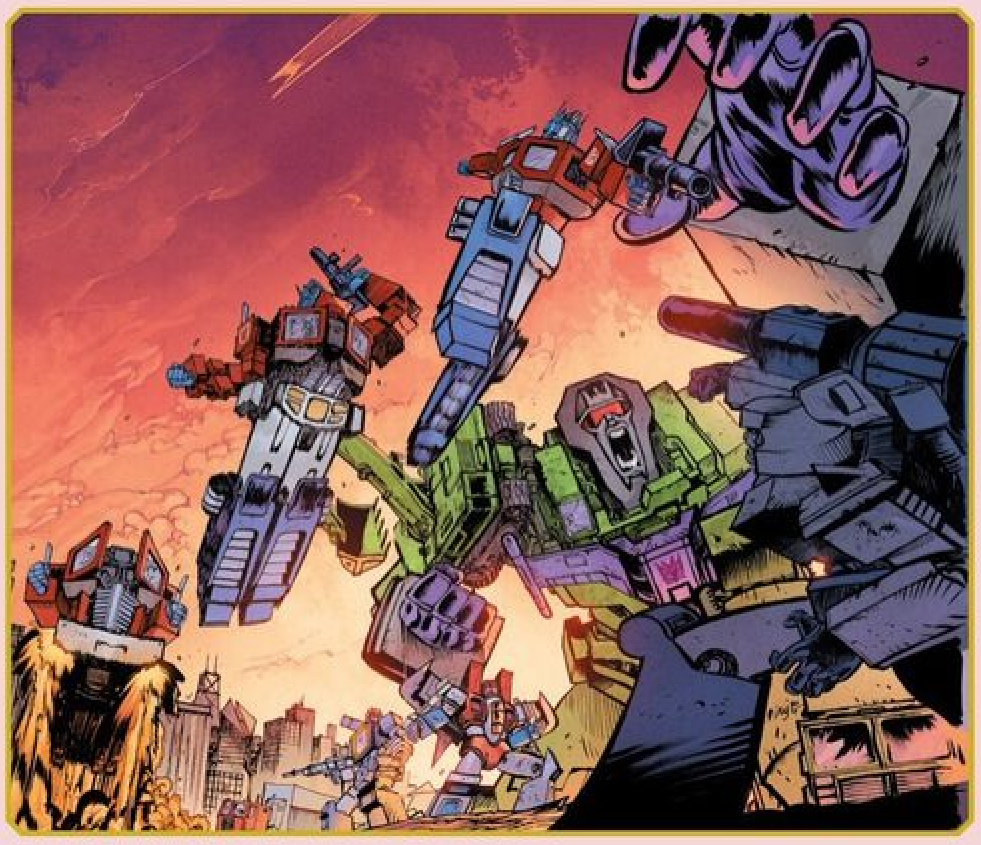


CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Beachcomber

WHERE: Beachcomber is an Autobot geologist who abhors violence and cherishes peace.

WHAT: In the unending war between the Autobots and Decepticons, Beachcomber loyally stands beside Optimus Prime and hopes to see a day where this conflict finally ends.



YOU'VE GOT THE TOUCH!

Daniel Warren Johnson ended his TRANSFORMERS epic with a cover that evokes one of the most iconic moments in Transformers' history, namely when Optimus Prime shows up to fight the Decepticons in the unforgettable 1986 animated film. Who isn't hearing a bit of Stan Bush's iconic music right now?

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: Sean Mackiewicz--publisher and first TRANSFORMERS editor--with Daniel Warren Johnson's epic TRANSFORMERS run coming to an end, what's your favorite memory from his time on the title?

A: Visiting Dan's home studio a couple weeks before SDCC 2023 and getting to look at all the original art for the entire first issue. While I'd seen all the art digitally, his enthusiasm in showing it off and me holding it in my hands felt like the last moment where this comic still felt like we were just creating a new indie comic.

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #24**
AVAILABLE 9/10

☐ **G.I. JOE #11**
AVAILABLE 9/17

☐ **VOID RIVALS #23**
AVAILABLE 9/24

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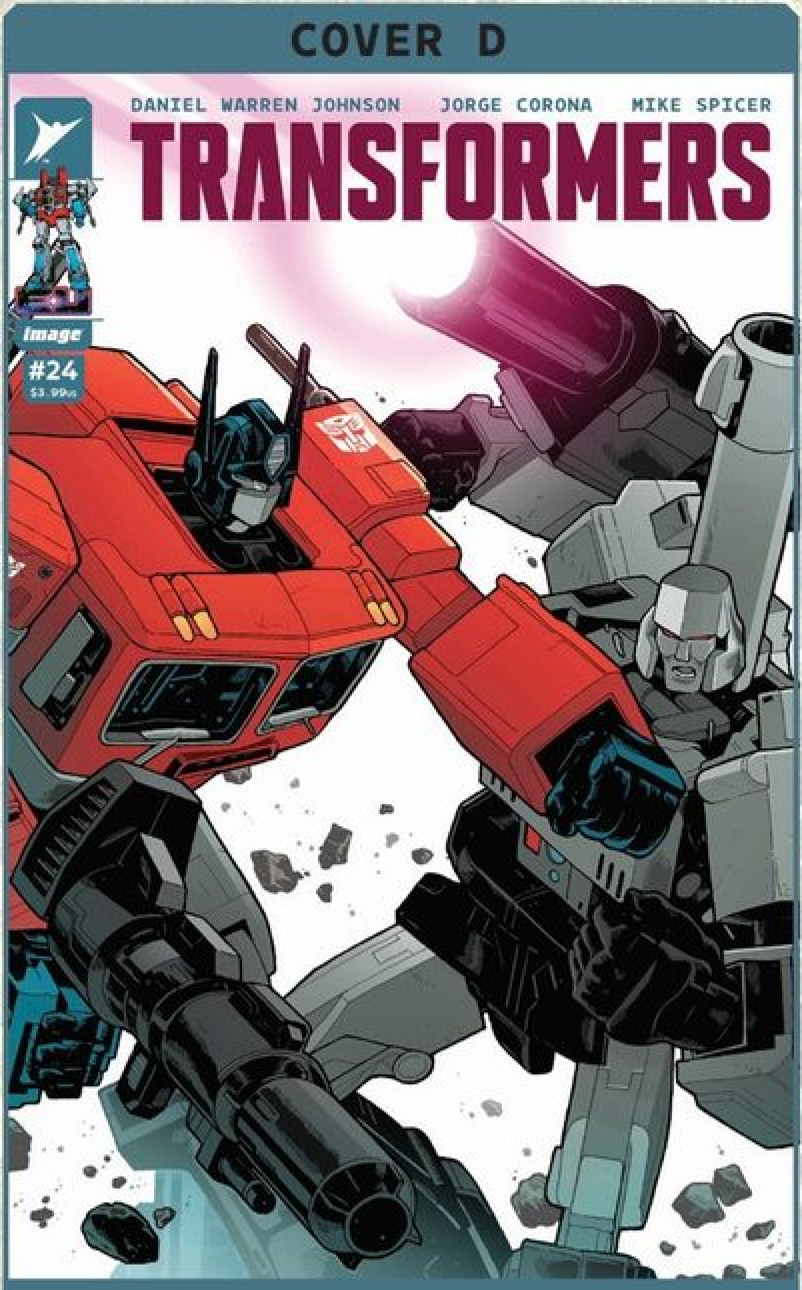
DAVID NAKAYAMA

COVER D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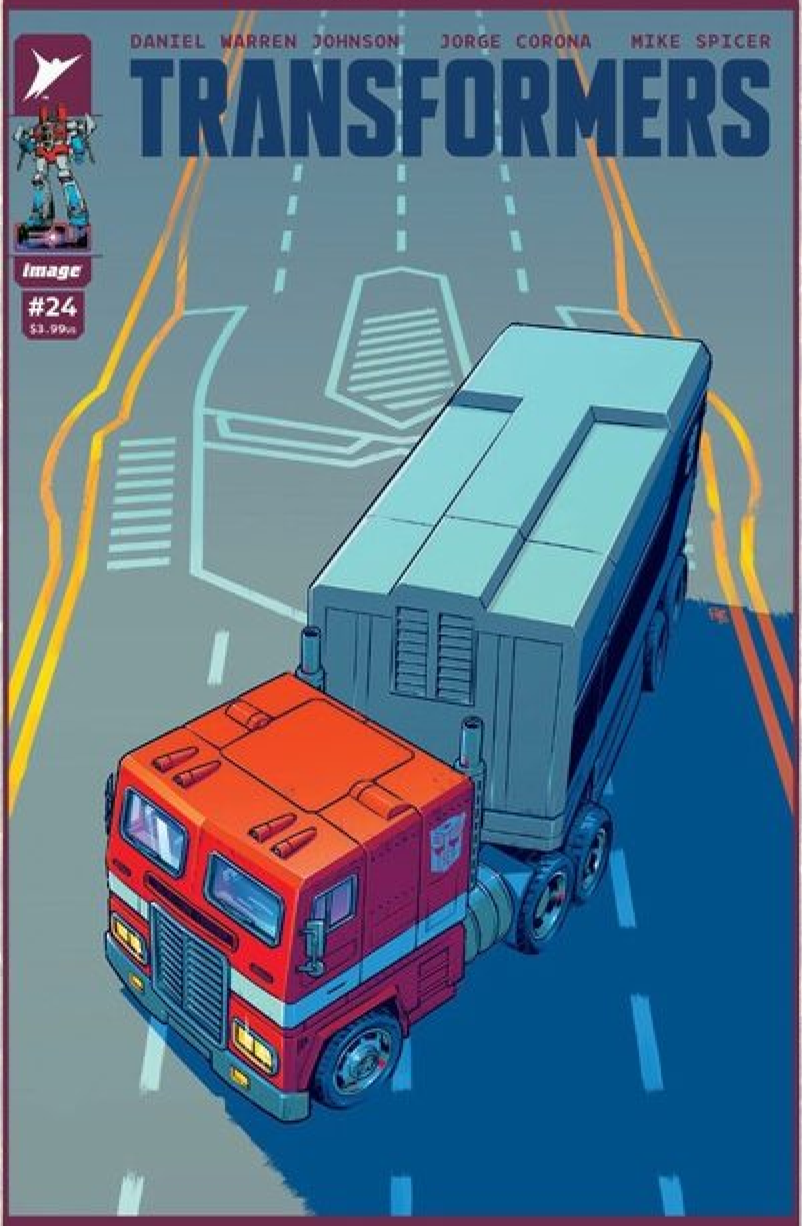
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